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May 4, 1987

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Print Media Branch

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May 4, 1987
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Alberta products make a hit in Hong Kong

A major promotion in Hong Kong has helped bring the flavor and value of Alberta beef and other Canadian food products home to to the people of the British colony, opening the door for more trade opportunities.

David Wong, a trade director with Alberta Agriculture says there are already indications that Alberta companies participating in recent trade shows and food promotions will be exporting their products across the Pacific.

Wong says as the awareness of Alberta beef and other food products increases it is expected manufacturers and processors will capture a bigger share of Hong Kong's annual $1.7 billion food and beverage market.

Alberta promotions, organized in part by Alberta Agriculture, ran in conjunction with a major Canadian push to capture the eye and tastebuds of Hong Kong consumers, retailers, hoteliers and chefs.

"There were actually several events happening at once," says Wong referring to the recent Hong Kong promotions. The federal government had organized a food and beverage trade show, while Alberta Agriculture sponsored related promotions at the same time.

The main event involved 54 Canadian companies, including six from Alberta, participating in the Food and Beverage Canada '87.

This first-ever exposition of Canadian food products was intended to "increase awareness of the quality and competitiveness of Canadian food and beverage products among the key players involved in Hong Kong's distribution system including importers, wholesalers, grocery retailers, hotels, restaurants, institutions and consumers."

By introducing more Canadian food and beverage suppliers to Hong Kong buyers it was hoped to bring Canada a step closer to its goal of doubling the value of food and beverages exported to Hong Kong. The target is $100 million in annual sales by 1990.

(Cont'd)

Chef Maurice O'Flynn, left and Alberta Agriculture's David Wong serve up some samples of Alberta beef during a recent promotion in Hong Kong.

Alberta firms participating in the show were Alpha Dairy of Red Deer, Centennial Packers of Calgary, Canada West Trading of Edmonton, King B Jerky of Red Deer, Premier Meats of Calgary and Sunland Industries of Edmonton.

"There were more than 1,000 buyers invited to tour the show and all the Alberta companies were very pleased with the response," says Wong. "I know some have made sales and others are negotiating sales because of this show."

Two five-star hotels, Westin's Shangri-La, and The Furama Hotel, both developed special menus to feature Alberta beef in their dining rooms. Cuts available ranged from fillet mignon to prime rib.

A separate promotion involved 20 Maxim's Restaurants in Hong Kong dedicating one-third of their menus to Alberta beef and other food products. Organized by the Canada Trade Commission the promotion was known as the Golden Maple Food Festival.

(Cont'd)

Alberta products make a hit in Hong Kong (cont'd)

Another promotion, organized by the Alberta Culinary Arts Foundation and Alberta Agriculture, was aimed at introducing the taste and quality of Alberta beef to some of the top Hong Kong hotel chefs.

"In Hong Kong, Alberta beef is competing against a very strong U.S. presence," says Wong. "But we know that Alberta beef is well regarded for its high quality, leaness, and good value. The chefs are key decision makers in the buying for the hotels, and we felt if we could show them the quality of Alberta beef they would want Alberta beef in their kitchens."

Working with Maurice O'Flynn, executive director of the culinary arts foundation, 18 chefs were invited to a presentation at the Shangri-La Hotel and given a taste of Alberta beef.

In a separate event, Dah Chong Hong Ltd. which owns 20 grocery stores in Hong Kong, staged an Alberta Beef Tasting Day for the public. Award winning chef Maurice O'Flynn offered his talents to prepare the meat.

"We basically took every opportunity we could to promote and raise the awareness of Alberta beef and other food products in Hong Kong," says the trade director. "And the effort is beginning to pay off.

Wong says Alberta Agent General, Jack Kennedy and his staff in Hong Kong played an important role in making this mission a success for Alberta companies.

"Having this office in Hong Kong and the expertise of these people available is an enormous benefit," he says. "The Alberta office helps businessmen lay the ground work and eliminate many of the frustrations encountered when doing business in a foreign country."

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Contact: David Wong
427-4241

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Shelterbelt program supervisor retiring

The man who for 20 years oversaw the production of about 22 million trees to be used by Alberta farmers for soil conservation and rural beautification projects, is retiring.

Herman Oosterhuis, who headed Alberta Agriculture's Shelterbelt Program since 1967 will be seeing things from a different perspective starting May 22 when he leaves his post at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Research Centre in northeast Edmonton.

Oosterhuis is credited with establishing the policy and guidelines and overseeing the production of planting material for the program which annually provides about 2.5 million trees and shrubs to be used by farmers and rural landowners from the Peace River to southern Alberta.

"Herman has been a key figure in the shelterbelt program," says George Grainger, director of the tree nursery and horticulture centre. "He is responsible for developing the program as we know it today."

Alberta Agriculture assumed responsibility for the shelterbelt program in 1950. The program provides farmers and rural landowners with trees and shrubs to be used to protect farmsteads and fields from wind erosion, as well as to beautify the landscape.

Since 1950 the program has produced more than 40 million trees and shrubs, including caragana, conifers, spruce, pine and deciduous species.

Oosterhuis, a native of Holland, joined the program after working for several years as a forester near Hinton.

The middle child in a family of nine, Oosterhuis, was born in the Netherlands in 1925.

Following high school, he attended an agricultural college where he received a diploma in agriculture. After the war, he attended the State Agricultural University in Wageningen, where he graduated in 1953 with a degree in forestry engineering.

He came to Canada in 1951 as an undergraduate, and worked for six months in southern Ontario for the Department of Lands and Forests.

(Cont'd)

In 1956 he moved to Alberta and became a junior forester with North West Pulp and Power in Hinton.

Oosterhuis joined Alberta Agriculture in 1967 as an agrologist responsible for extension and the administration of the shelterbelt program.

Initially he carried out his duties from the department's headquarters in downtown Edmonton, but in 1978 his office was relocated to the tree nursery at Oliver. At the same time he assumed responsibility for the production of shelterbelt planting material.

"Through Alberta Agriculture, Herman had occasion to associate with Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association and he has been involved in activities such as nursery inspections, pruning demonstrations and he attended nursery conventions to demonstrate tree production," says Grainger. "He has shown a keen interest in the increase of nursery stock produced in this province."

Oosterhuis, 62, is taking advantage of the provincial government's Early Retirement Incentive Program.

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Contact: George Grainger
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For immediate release

Three home economists appointed

Farm families in Alberta Agriculture's northwest region outside of Edmonton will have new resource people at hand, following the appointment of three district home economists.

The three home economists will be providing service and advice to clients in the Fort Saskatchewan, Sangudo and Morinville districts.

The appointments were announced by Randi Sandbu, regional home economist in Barrhead.

Jo-Ann Hall has assumed her role as district home economist in Fort Saskatchewan.

Raised in Vermilion, Hall received her bachelor of science degree in home economics in 1982. She majored in family studies.

Prior to moving to Fort Saskatchewan, she worked as a district home economist in Red Deer, Sangudo and High River.

Joan Heath, has taken up duties as the district home economist in Sangudo, replacing Lori Leonard.

Heath, who was DHE in Drayton Valley before moving to Sangudo, began her career as a district home economist in training in the Fairview district in 1985.

She is a home economics graduate of the University of Manitoba with a general major. Hall was raised on a farm near Dauphin, Manitoba.

Maureen Bauman has joined the staff at the Morinville district agriculture office after serving as a district home economist in the Ryley district for eight years.

Bauman earned her bachelor of science degree in home economics in 1978 from the University of Alberta, majoring in family studies.

She replaces Judy Shipley Smith as the Morinville DHE.

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Contact: Randi Sandbu
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Lenders keep current on agriculture

Bankers and other agricultural lenders from across the province are expected in Olds, May 31 to June 5 for the eighth annual Agricultural Workshop for Lenders, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture.

Over the past seven years more than 570 bank managers and loans officers have attended the workshop, held at Olds College and upgraded their knowledge of agriculture, says Doug Barlund a farm management economist with farm business management branch in Olds.

"The objective of the course is to ensure continuity of the farmer-lender relationship, by familiarizing agricultural lenders with current agricultural production, marketing and profit maximizing techniques used in Alberta's major agricultural enterprises," says Barlund.

"In addition to classroom discussions, participants are given several on-farm tours in the Olds area, to obtain a first-hand look at farm operations."

The five-day workshop also allows lenders to become more familiar with the services offered by Alberta Agriculture and provides an opportunity to discuss lending concerns with provincial agricultural specialists.

"Participants also gain a great deal from sharing experiences and ideas with other lenders," says the specialist. "And it provides an excellent opportunity to foster an improved relationship between lenders and borrowers."

A 600-page agricultural reference manual forms part of the take-home resource material.

The workshop is co-ordinated by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds in conjunction with agrologists from most major banks, Treasury Branches, credit unions, Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (AADC) and extension services, Olds College.

Further information on the Agricultural Workshop for Lenders and the Agricultural Lenders' Manual is available from Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

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Contact: Douglas Barlund - 556-4245

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Conference planned on crop alternatives

A major conference looking at alternatives to cereal crops will be held in Lethbridge in November.

The conference will attempt to address both general and specific concerns regarding the economical production and marketing of crop alternatives available to producers in all regions of Alberta, says Blair Roth an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

The conference, to be held November 11-13 at the Lethbridge Lodge Hotel, will have a province-wide perspective, he says.

"It will develop the theme of crop diversification and include a number of commodity-specific workshops to assist farmers in ensuring they know what alternatives are, or could be, suitable for their farming operations," says Roth.

For more information contact Blair Roth at 381-5127 or Tom Krahn at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks at 362-3391.

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Contact: Blair Roth
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Producer has faith in alfalfa

Although he was sceptical at the outset, one Alberta farmer says alfalfa has turned the tide in controlling the spread of soil salinity on his southern Alberta farm.

Ron Svanes who farms near Carmangay, a community north of Lethbridge, says the legume has not only halted the spread of the salty minerals that virtually render the soil useless, but it is also helping to rebuild soil quality.

Svanes, speaking at a recent conference organized by Alberta Agriculture is also participating in a salinity research demonstration project directed by the department and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration.

The dryland farmer said salinity was threatening to take over two quarter sections of his dryland grain farm. Starting with small saline seeps in low areas it was gradually spreading further out into productive soil.

He blamed the traditional summerfallow crop rotation system for causing the problem.

"A saline seep originates with a root zone filled to its water holding capacity," he told producers attending the Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit Conference. "Under a summerfallow crop rotation, precipitation exceeds the storage capacity of the soil. When the soil is at field capacity, additional moisture moves through the root zone, through the sub soil, dissolving salts until it forms a saline water table above the bedrock.

"The underground saline water moves downslope, dissolving more salt. In a lower lying discharge area, wick action drives the saline water to the surface and salts accumulate because of evaporation."

As part of the research project several wells were drilled on Svane's farm to measure the depth of the water table.

"One well located next to my buildings, in a productive area, had a water table level six feet below the surface, which was an eyeopener for me," he said.

(Cont'd)

"The house well on the farm was dug by hand in 1938 to a depth of 32 feet or bedrock. It was dry soil all the way down. Now the soils in that area are saturated to within six feet of the surface."

Svanes said working with Alberta Agriculture and PFRA he began corrective action to save his land three years ago. It was recommended that the most vulnerable soil be seeded to alfalfa and surrounding acres put into a continuous cropping system.

Alfalfa was recommended over a continuous cropping pattern for several reasons; 1. a longer growing season; a greater rooting depth up to 20 feet; and 3. an increase in organic matter, soil structure and fertility.

The alfalfa would lower the water table, dry out the subsoil and restore the capability of the soil to store moisture.

"It was hoped in the saline area, with a lower water table, the salts would be washed down and the saline area would be reclaimed," said Svanes. "Continuous cropping does not directly lower the water table, it maintains the status quo."

Svanes said although it will take time to see complete results the project is proving successful.

He now has 130 acres of high risk land seeded to alfalfa with more to be seeded this year.

"The economics of dryland alfalfa looked great in 1985 with $120 a ton and buyers at the door. In 1986, the economics of alfalfa at $60 a ton was not as good but neither was wheat at $3.16 a bushel."

He says the young alfalfa stand has not been able to drastically reduce the water table, escpecially with the heavy fall rains in both 1985 and 1986, but the saline seeps are showing smaller salt accumulations, more vegetative growth and firmer soil structure.

"In the future, as the water table drops and the saline seep is reclaimed, I will plow under the alfalfa and will return to a flex cropping system in cereals and oilseeds," said Svanes. "I will continue to use the water table wells as a management tool. If the water table in these discharge areas rise above a certain level, the recharge area will be reseeded to alfalfa."

(Cont'd)

Producer has faith in alfalfa (cont'd)

The producer said he plans to use more flex cropping on the remainder of his farm to help control the water table.

"Alfalfa will become a permanent part of my (crop) rotation not only for salinity control but for increasing organic matter in our depleted soils," he said. "It seems ironic that we must take corrective measures for management practices which were considered progressive in earlier years."

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Contact: Ron Svanes
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Tillage practices change with the times

Tillage practices can have a major impact on how much moisture is available for crop production, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

But producers shouldn't get into a rut in deciding how and when to use them, says Murray Green, a farm machinery engineer with the department in Airdrie.

The specialist says farmers should look at the site specifics of soil and moisture conditions and type of crop to be grown in deciding whether tillage is needed.

Green told a recent agriculture conference that too much tillage or tillage at the wrong time can greatly reduce available moisture.

On the other hand a no-till regime on the wrong soil, under the right conditions can work against production efficiency as well.

"Today we cannot be so inflexible as to do only what we have done before," he told producers attending the Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit conference organized by Alberta Agriculture.

"In order to respond to the many pressures on the agricultural industry, farmers must learn and apply new technology and methods. The objective in adopting new methods is to improve the efficiency of livestock and field crop production."

Green said moisture is the most predictable limitation to crop production on Alberta prairie and parkland. More efficient cropping and tillage practices must be adopted to better use moisture, when in short supply, or inconveniently in excess.

"The practice of tillage affects both parts of the efficiency equation," he said. "Obviously tillage costs money in terms of fuel, equipment and labor. Tillage also affects crop yield. In virtually all cases, tillage is expected to enhance crop yields."

The engineer said tillage can be used for several reasons such as to control weeds, to reduce straw and residue buildup, to either firm or loosen the soil, to reduce compaction, to work fertilizer into the soil and for seed bed preparation.

(Cont'd)

"Although stirring and mixing of the soil (tillage) was essential in the past, and under some circumstances today, there are serious allegations directed at tillage," he said. "In fact there is much evidence to show definite declines in soil productivity as a result of cropping practices which employ too many tillage operations."

Along with increasing the risk of moisture loss, too much tillage can lead to the reduction in soil quality and encourage water and wind erosion of soil.

Conserving and managing available moisture should be considered when looking at tillage practices, he said.

Green said leaving tall stubble on the field over winter is a good way to trap snow, which otherwise might drift away, adding moisture to the soil. If tillage is required for some reason, use conservation tillage equipment that will not level the stubble.

Leaving an even distribution of stubble, straw and litter over the field will help in letting precipitation soak into the soil, rather than run off. Using a tillage method that will roughen the soil will also help with infiltration of rainfall and snowmelt. The specialist said while too much tillage can lead to problems, moisture can also be lost if the ground surface is too hard or compacted.

Green said once the moisture is in the ground it is important to conserve it as long as possible.

"The process of moisture movement is dependent on the soil texture, number and type of tillage operations, the soil temperature and the initial soil moisture content."

Too much tillage on certain soils will reduce the litter on the ground, allow the soil to heat up more and let the ground to dry out faster.

Studies have "indicated tillage operations resulted in more soil moisture loss than systems using minimum or not tillage," he said. "Under Alberta climatic conditions, alternating tillage with chemical weed control and when possible eliminating tillage has shown improved yield response."

(Cont'd)

Tillage practices change with the times (cont'd)

The specialist says water use efficiency is also dependent on crop type selection and cropping rotation. The decision to recrop or summerfallow should be based on available spring moisture.

"When moisture reserves are adequate, growing a marketable crop is wise," he said. "It would not require much improvement in snow trapping and soil moisture preservation for recropping to equal fallow in terms of plant available moisture."

Green said it is important for producers to consider all avenues to improve production efficiency and crop quality.

"Just as new varieties, different fertilizer formulations, new herbicides or grain conditioning systems are introduced and accepted, tillage methods must undergo change," he said. "Tillage systems to preserve more moisture and improve the soil environment are virtually free for the taking. This is but one of the steps to more efficient agriculture."

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Contact: Murray Green
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Agri-News Briefs

FEWER GRASSHOPPERS, BUT STILL PLENTY

The number of grasshoppers in Alberta will continue to decline in 1987, but it won't be as big a drop as it has been in the past couple years, says an Agriculture Canada specialist. D.L. Johnson in a report in the research summary produced by the Lethbridge Research Station, says there will still be severe infestations in some parts of the province through 1987. Johnson says while the area infested is expected to be reduced in size it is broken up creating more problem pockets. Southern Alberta ranging from the Cardston/Fort Macleod area, through to Brooks and Medicine Hat and pockets north through Drumheller, Hanna and up to Wainwright are predicted to be the worst hit, says Johnson. In 1987 six million hectares are expected to have potential problems, with two million hectares in the severe to very severe class.

TOO BIG CAN BE A PROBLEM

While scrotal circumference has been a measuring stick in selecting breeding stock, producers buying bulls for their beef cow herds shouldn't go after the real high dimensions, says an Agriculture Canada specialist. Dr. Glen Coulter, a reproduction specialist, says in the Lethbridge Research Station research summary that big scrotal measurements can be a good sign, but bulls with extremely big testicles should be avoided. Based on a study Coulter has recommended minimum scrotal circumference for two-year-old bulls as follows: Simmental 36 cm; Angus and Charolais 35 cm; Hereford and Shorthorn 34 cm; and Limousin 33 cm. "Cattlemen selecting herd sires should seriously consider selecting bulls having SC substantially greater than the minimums listed," he said. "However the effects of selecting bulls with extremely large testicles, on bull reproductive capacity and on the fertility of female progeny are unknown. Caution should be exercised when selecting bulls with extremely large testicles."

LONG-HAIRED CATTLE HANDLE BLACK FLIES

While black flies can create a nightmare for cattle in central and northern Alberta, a livestock specialist with Agriculture Canada says long-haired breeds may be better able to cope with the pests. J.A. Shemancuk, in a research summary produced by the Lethbridge Research Station says a study has shown that Highland, Highland-Shorthorn crosses and Galloway breeds received "significantly fewer bites from black flies" than Hereford, Angus, Charolais, Ayrshire and Holstein steers. Shemanchuk concluded from the study done in central Alberta along the Athabasca River that "the use of long-haired breeds in black-fly infested areas is particularly appropriate to beef production systems and should be considered as a component of integrated management in areas where black flies are a pest all spring and summer and use of larvicide is too expensive or not always completely effective."

REDA OFFERS YOUTH PROGRAMS

Teenagers interested in developing leadership skills are encouraged to register for the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) Cooperative Youth Programs. Now into its 26th year the program provides teens from 13 to 19 with seminars aimed at developing skills in leadership and community living. They also learn about cooperatives and agriculture's importance in Alberta. Offered in three levels there are teen seminars for 13 and 14-year-olds, youth seminars for 15 to 17-year-olds and grad seminars, which focus on life skills, for 16 to 19-year-olds. The week long program is held at Goldeye Centre 10 kilometres west of Nordegg. Anyone interested in attending or wishing to sponsor a youth should contact the REDA office at 14815 - 119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9 or call 451-5959.

(Cont'd)

NO EASY CURE FOR FAIRY RING

While there may be no easy way to get rid of Fairy rings, specialists at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticulture Research Center in Brooks say attempts can be made to cut down the spread of the problem. Fairy ring is caused by a fungus and can result in considerable damage to turf grasses in golf courses, parks and homeowner's lawns. How it is spread has been poorly understood but one possibility may be the spread of spores from the mushrooms produced by the Fairy Ring. After studying the problem at the research centre, the specialists suggest that the mushrooms from the ring should be destroyed to help prevent the start of new rings. Mushrooms can be controlled by picking them and by watering the ring occasionally with a substantial amount of water rather than frequently with a light application.

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ATVs aren't for playing

All terrain vehicles (ATVs) may have a place around the farm but they are not toys, says Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager.

There have been several deaths and serious injuries -- especially among children -- attributed to the careless use of the machines, says Solomon Kyeremanteng.

The manager says part of the problem is allowing children (and in some cases adults) to use ATVs without proper training and protective equipment and without proper supervision.

"It doesn't mean that people shouldn't buy ATVs," says Kyeremanteng. "They can serve a purpose in many jobs around the farm and as recreational vehicles. But the accident rate does mean that everyone, particularly children, should be aware of the hazards associated with ATV use."

The provincial specialist made his comments after a committee of the Canadian Pediatric Association announced several recommendations regarding the use of ATVs.

The committee said doctors should discourage the use of unlicensed two, three and four-wheel off-road vehicles and that children under 14 should be discouraged from using them.

If parents do allow children to operate the vehicles it is recommended that all riders be trained, supervised and restricted to riding on familiar terrain and never on roadways.

Riders should be required to wear helmets and protective clothing; operate the vehicles only during daylight hours; and the machines should carry only one person at a time.

The committee also called for a ban on ATV advertising which uses children under age 14 to promote "adventurous or dangerous activities".

The committee said health professionals should promote legislation for a minimum age restriction, compulsory licencing for two, three and four-wheel ATV drivers, mandatory helmets and compulsory insurance.

(Cont'd)

Kyeremanteng says the concern is not unfounded. A recent survey of off-road vehicle accidents in Manitoba found there were seven deaths and 70 injuries resulting from the mishaps, in one year.

A pediatrics specialist at the University of Alberta in Edmonton has written the Alberta Medical Association and Alberta Agriculture expressing her concern over the increasing number of ATV related injuries.

Dr. Frances Harley in her letter cited several recent examples of ATV accidents in Alberta which have either killed or injured children. Harley described ATV accidents as "a major epidemic and I concur with the recommendations" of the Canadian Pediatrics Society and other groups.

The U of A professor described the case of an eight-year-old Grande Centre boy who died after being crushed when the ATV he was operating, flipped. Reports are that the machine turned over after the youngster tried to pull out a small tree by tying a rope to ATV. He was unsupervised at the time. The family had only had the ATV for three days.

In another example Harley said an eight-year-old girl was seriously injured when the three-wheeled ATV she was driving was in collision with a farm tractor. A seven-year-old boy suffered compound factures and was scarred for life after the motorbike he was riding was in collision with another motorbike operated by an older youth.

In another mishap seven children, riding on two four-wheel ATVs operated by an 11 and a 12-year-old, were taken to hospital with various injuries after their machines collided on a dirt road at night. Neither vehicle had lights.

"The hazards are very real," says Kyeremanteng. "Parents must realize that these "fun vehicles" that are relatively easy to operate can kill a child in seconds if not handled properly.

"The message is clear, especially for children, but for adults as well."

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Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
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Market garden industry expanding

Buying produce from the local vegetable stand or off a truck at the farmers' market may seem a small scale transaction, but it's actually part of a multi-million dollar industry in Alberta, growing at the rate of 10 per cent a year.

Market gardening, one of the oldest agricultural enterprises in the province, has been expanding steadily in recent years as consumers seek out high quality and reasonably priced produce grown right here in Alberta.

"The profession of growing fruits and vegetables for sale direct-to-consumer is almost as old as time itself," says Lloyd Hausher, an Alberta Agriculture specialist and secretary of the Alberta Market Gardeners Association.

"Market gardening in Alberta began with the first traders along the Peace River, who grew potatoes and vegetables for sale, or barter to the Indians and the few settlers establishing the district."

Since those beginnings the industry has spread across the province from the Peace River, to Fort McMurray and south to the Montana border. It is estimated there are between 350 and 400 individual gardeners involved in the business, generating more than $6 million in sales annually."

Hausher notes there is a distinction between market gardening and large scale commercial vegetable growers. The market gardeners are usually small acreage operators who sell directly to consumers either through a stand at the farm gate or at a farmers' market.

Commercial growers on the other hand produce vegetable crops for sale to wholesalers or processing plants.

"The market garden industry has had a dramatic increase in acreage and numbers within the last 15 years," says Hausher, a fruit and vegetable specialist with the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center at Brooks.

"Acreages have consistently grown by about 10 per cent a year. The total acreage of produce sold at the farm gate or farmers' markets is estimated at more than 2,000 acres."

(Cont'd)

Hausher says industry expansion means not only more growers are getting involved, but established growers are planting more acres.

Wayne Doan, president of the two year old, Alberta Market Gardeners Association, says "the relatively low capital input costs makes it attractive. A reasonably good return can also be made from a minimum number of acres.

"With the present economy, acreage holders and farmers alike are looking to special or alternate crops. Market gardening is definitely a consideration."

Doan says although plans have not be finalized, the association hopes to again offer a toll-free consumer information service this summer to give the public a run down on what produce is available and where to find it.

"Consumer demand for fresh fruits and vegetables has steadily increased," he says. "To assist consumers in finding these farm fresh commodities, for the last two years, the association ran a toll-free information line to guide consumers to member operations. Plans are to continue this service in 1987."

The president says the association is also planning to print a listing of member growers, showing hours of operation, major commodities and location of farms. About 100,000 copies will be distributed to the public.

For more information on market gardening and the association contact Wayne Doan or Lloyd Hausher, Alberta Market Gardeners Association, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, T0J 0J0, or call 362-3391.

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Contact: Lloyd Hausher
362-3391

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Employment program helps both farmers and students

Farmers needing help and high school students looking for work should team up this summer through an Alberta Agriculture program that offers benefits on both sides.

Applications are now being taken for the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program which reduces labor costs to the farmer and provides work and experience for students.

About 30,000 students have participated in the program since it was introduced 16 years ago, says Bruce Jantzie, coordinator of the program with the department in Edmonton.

Under the program any Alberta farmer is eligible to hire a student, provided they are not related, and receive assistance with the wages paid. The Alberta government will pay half of the employee's monthly wage, to a maximum of $300, for each month of the program. The program runs from July 2 to August 31.

Prospective students must be at least 15 years of age and priority will be given to high school students.

The deadline for submitting applications for employment is May 29.

"The provincial limit of 890 students is expected to be reached before this date," says Jantzie. "So I urge anyone interested to apply as soon as possible."

Applications are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Canada Farm Labour Pool. For further information about the program contact Bruce Jantzie at 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or call 427 2186.

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Contact: Bruce Jantzie
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Farm managers should take a look back

Although it's good advice at anytime, it's important for farmers - particularly when economics are tight - to have a hard look at the past, present and future of their operations, say two specialists with Alberta Agriculture.

Farmers shouldn't dwell on the past, but they should have a look at what's been happening over the past 10 years, to determine if trends or patterns are developing, say Garry Bradshaw and Merle Good, farm management specialists.

Farmers should also make a serious statement about where their operations stand at the present and do some crystal ball work about where they could be headed.

The specialists say producers should develop models based on various highs and lows of commodity prices to determine what could happen down the road.

Bradshaw who is a regional farm economist from Red Deer and Good, a farm tax specialist from Olds, made their comments in a recent presentation called "Your farm's future - looking ahead through a rear-view mirror".

Bradshaw says farmers shouldn't live in the past, but reviewing past performance is important.

"Just as you can't drive by looking only in your rear-view mirror, neither can you plan your next year of farming by just looking at the past," he says. "It is worthwhile, however to glance back once in awhile to see what has been going on. This not only aids in planning, but may prevent a complete wreck from creeping up on you."

The economist says looking back one year, provides some information but a decade of financial records is better.

"When records really become useful is when we have a number of years and can start to see what the trends look like. Very often the trend in the past will greatly affect the alternatives for the future."

(Cont'd)

The specialists say there are several indicators such as cashflow, past profitability, the debt load trend and the balance sheet position which help measure financial position.

Good says one of the best examples of how the "past can haunt your future" is by comparing debt load to declining asset values.

"By analyzing the past one can understand the flexibilities and the opportunities that exist in your farm's present financial and capital structure," says the tax specialist. "Furthermore, this analysis depicts the personal opportunities that may exist in your business, as well."

Good cited the example of a farmer who has already refinanced his operating loan twice in the last five years, his son has decided to quit farming and the four-wheel drive tractor needs a new motor. The opportunities that remain for the farmer are different that those a neighbor may have.

Assuming both farmers have a 1,000 acre grain farm with the same debt liability, Good says the neighbor's debts may be on a short-term basis and refinancing might assist him in lowering his annual debt repayment. But for the first farmer refinancing three times in six year is no longer an option.

"It is for these reasons that a wide brush of alternatives available to farmers in Alberta cannot be applied with any accuracy," says the specialist. "Individual farmers need individual solutions."

Good says along with the rear view look, farmers need to assess where they are at.

"Without a firm grasp of your farm's present financial situation, it is impossible to predict or forecast your farm's future," he says.

The tax specialist suggests as part of the planning exercise a farmer make a written statement of his personal goals and objectives, financial resources, future plans and alternatives.

"Although many farmers may feel this reminds them of a 4-H activity the importance of such a procedure is vital to your farm's success," he says.

(Cont'd)

Farm managers should take a look back (cont'd)

With the past and present in hand, producers must ask where they are going.

"This question is of vital importance for all farmers to answer for the next three to five years. It is important to look at the "what if's" and determine what your financial position and personal position will be if our commodity prices stay flat or in fact reduce," says Good. "Furthermore, we have to analyze plummeting land values in conjunction with these falling commodity prices.

The specialist says if cycles are to be believed, land values may drop even further in the next five to 10 years before a turn around is expected.

"Surprisingly, many farmers will ride out this cycle, especially those with little or no debt or those who have a sufficiently large land base, with mixed enterprises such as cattle or hogs.

"In agriculture it always appears that we exemplify the quote: When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

The specialists say once the farmer has put the best information about his operation in order, he can then consider alternatives available.

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

Garry Bradshaw
340-5358

May 11, 1987
For immediate release

Weather can affect exposed rafter joints

Farmers should make sure the natural ventilation system in their barns isn't creating a structural hazard, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

The warning was made after partial failure of trusses was discovered in the roofs of three relatively new barns this past winter.

Dennis Darby, structures engineer with the department in Lethbridge, says it appears in these cases the open ridge vents of natural ventilation systems allowed the weather and condensation to affect the metal plates that connect the rafters.

Darby says in most designs this can't happen, but producers should check to ensure problems aren't brewing.

"Natural ventilation systems for hog and dairy barns have become popular the last five years," says Darby. "Before that, dairy and beef barns were sometimes ventilated with open ridge vents. We've seen examples this winter where natural ventilation and open ridge vents are causing some problems with truss rafter connections."

According to Darby, there are two types of problems.

Wetting and drying of the wood at the ridge causes shrinking and swelling which "pops" the metal plate connectors out of the wood. In three or four years the connections can separate and the truss will fail.

Severe corrosion of the metal connectors can also occur. Though this is a slower process, Darby says these connections could rust through in a few years.

The problem could be avoided if the truss at the ridge is not exposed to rain, snow and frost. The ventilation slot should be built as a vent shaft in four foot sections, isolating the trusses in the attic where it is dry.

Darby says he believes many barns are built with the vent shaft design and should not have the struss failure problem.

(Cont'd)

Weather can affect rafter joints (cont'd)

"The truss rafter connection is something we seldom look at in detail, until there is a roof failure," he says. "Farmers with open vents and exposed trusses should have a look at their condition.

"If problems are detected, engineers with Alberta Agriculture can advise farmers on methods of repair."

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Contact: Dennis Darby
381-5114

May 11, 1987
For immediate release

April maintains weather pattern

April continued the weather trend of the past winter, providing above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Peter Dzikowski, agricultural weather resource specialist with the conservation and development branch in Edmonton, says "average temperatures for April were four to five degrees celsius warmer than the long term average for the month".

The combination of the mild winter and the mild spring weather means field work and soil warming will be earlier this year.

April precipitation was variable ranging from a low of 4.2 mm at Edson, only 16 per cent of the normal 26.4 mm expected in April, to a high of 38.2 mm at Cold Lake, 77 per cent above the long term average of 21.6 mm.

The Peace River block reported 10 to 20 mm of precipitation, while central Alberta April precipitation amounts were most varied, and increased from west to east. Southern Alberta reported about 20 mm of precipitation.

For more information contact Peter Dzikowski at 422-4385.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

May 11, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

GOOD MOISTURE FOR PLANTING

Soil moisture conditions for planting are rated in good to excellent condition across most of the province, according to Alberta Agriculture's first crop report of 1987. The bi-weekly update produced by Keir Packer of the department's statistics branch says Lethbridge, Bow Island, Claresholm, Hanna and Drumheller, are the only areas reporting fair surface moisture. The dry conditions combined with high winds in mid-April led to extensive wind erosion in southern Alberta, says the report. Winter crops are in good to excellent condition with very little winter kill reported anywhere. Livestock have wintered well and feed is still abundant. Field work is underway in all regions. For more information contact Packer at 427-4011.

SEEDING INTENTIONS VARY BY CROP

In spite of poor market forecasts Alberta farmers haven't lost faith in wheat, barley, rye and canola according to an Alberta Agriculture report on 1987 seeding intentions. Depending on the crop, Alberta farmers are holding production levels steady with only slight variations from last year's acreages. Looking at the eight principal field crops and summerfallow, the report shows wheat acreages will be down about seven per cent from 1986, while Durum wheat acreage will be 25 per cent higher than last year. Oat acreage is expected to be three per cent below 1986 levels, while barley is estimated at six per cent and rye at four per cent higher than 1986 acreages. Flaxseed and mixed grains will be 21 and 22 per cent, respectively, below 1986 and canola will be three per cent below 1986 levels. Summerfallow acreage is up slightly, estimated to be one per cent higher than last year. For more information contact Keir Packer at 427-4011.

(Cont'd)

REPLICA MADE OF ANNIVERSARY CAKE

A replica of one of the largest anniversary cakes ever made in Alberta is on permanent display at the Edmonton Northlands Agricom. It's still a metre tall, but it's miniature compared to the three-metre tall cake made 20 years ago to mark the 50th anniversary of the 4-H program in Alberta and Canada's 100th birthday. The replica made by Jenny Sterling of Westlock will be on permanent display in the Cloverleaf Room. Among events at a recent unveiling ceremony was airing of a half-hour television program produced by Allan Shenfield, first regional 4-H council president and archival film from the now defunct television series 4-H Clubtime. Doug Bienert, an Alberta Agriculture trade director, who was the Edmonton area regional 4-H specialist when the first council was formed in 1962, acted as master of ceremonies. For more information contact 4-H media coordinator Bob Coe in Edmonton at 422-4444.

DEADLINE NEAR ON 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS

Alberta 4-H members interested in applying for one of the more than 30 scholarships presented annually have only a few weeks left to submit applications. Available to both present and past 4-H members the awards will go to candidates across the province, who will be attending post secondary institutions this September. Application deadline is June 1 and July 15 depending on the scholarship. For more information write to 4-H Scholarships, Box 550 Edmonton, T5J 2K8, or call Anita Styba at 422-4444.

FEED INDUSTRY CONVENTION PLANNED

The Canadian Feed Industry Association is planning its national convention for early July in Saskatoon. The organization which is headquartered in Ottawa will meet July 7 and 9 at the Saskatoon Inn. For more information on the event contact the national office at (613) 238-6421.

(Cont'd)

POULTRY TONGUES ARE HOT ITEM

While it is said that we process everything that comes out of a hog, except for the squeal, there may be only the quack left over from ducks, according to a report in HungaroPress, a publication of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce. In the most recent issue the publication says Hungary is now shipping chickens to Argentina and poultry tongues to Hong Kong. "Hong Kong gourmets have grown so fond of the duck and goose tongues supplied earlier, as well as of the simmer-cooked poultry leg delicacy, that they have increased their last year's order by half as much again," says the publication. The paper says the Poultry Processing Enterprise of Szentes, Hungary sold 500 tons of gutted chicken to Argentina and the operation will process a total of about five million geese, ducks, chickens and other kinds of poultry, this year.

BE CAREFUL WITH PIPELINE CLEANERS

Alberta dairymen are urged to be careful with those powerful pipeline cleaners used around the barn that can be extremely toxic to children. A recent U.S. study found that dairy pipeline cleaners -- the powerful chemicals used to clean stainless steel milk pipelines on dairy farms -- accounted for more poisonings and injuries than any other lye product. It said victims of pipeline cleaner accidents, toddlers aged 1 to 3 years, ususally drank the clear, odorless liquid from water glasses, measuring cups and similar containers. Advice for producers includes never take your eye off a chemical you've measured into a cup and take the cup with you if you have to leave to answer the phone. Put poison stickers on measuring containers; keep chemicals in their original containers; never store chemicals in typical food containers; keep stored chemicals locked away; dispose of empty containers properly and keep emergency phone numbers such as the poison control centre, ambulance, doctor and police handy.

(Cont'd)

KEEP BREEDING SEASON SHORT

Now is the time for Alberta beef producers to think about shortening the breeding season for their herd. There are plenty of good reasons to cut down the length of time the cows are exposed to bulls, but initially it helps shorten the calving season. A limited breeding season is one of the most effective tools for weaning as close to one calf per cow exposed to breeding as possible, says an Alberta Agriculture publication. The short breeding and calving season leads to more efficient use of labor since calving is the period of maximum labor input. A short calving season reduces death losses because it encourages close observation of the herd. In addition, the calves are grouped to reach market weight at the same time. An eight-week-long breeding season is adequate to settle a well managed herd, although some producers have trimmed that to six weeks. Guidelines for adequate bull to cow ratio are: yearling bulls, 1-15 cows; two-year-olds, 1-20 cows; and mature bulls, 1 - 25 or 30 cows. For more information obtain a copy of the department publication, Disease Control Calendar for a Beef Herd, (Agdex 420/662-1) available from district offices or the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

REGULATORY SERVICES KEPT BUSY

Although they provide many functions, the regulatory services staff of Alberta Agriculture checked more than three million head of cattle and horses in the last year that were sold through auction markets and for export. In the department's annual report for 1985-86, the staff of the regulatory service and feeder associations branch checked 3,120,443 head of livestock for proper brands. This was a drop of about 60,000 head from 1984. The report also says there were 53 livestock markets and 57 livestock assembly stations in operation at year end. There were 935 livestock dealers and agents compared with 941 in 1984. Among its functions the branch provides brand registration, brand inspection service, licensing and bonding of livestock dealers and agents, licensing of stockyards and operators; collects stray livestock and provides support for feeder associations.

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AGRI-NEWS

May 18, 1987

CANADIANA
JUN - 3 1987

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

New employment program available

A new Alberta government employment program may be of benefit to both farm and agri-business managers, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

The Alberta Business and Community Development Program (or ABCD Program), a result the 1987 provincial budget, has a relatively broad application, says Alex Ostapiuk, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

Under its terms and conditions it would be geared for farming operations or businesses that have an eligible project which can employ at least three full time people, he says.

Ostapiuk says this is a new employment program targeted to assist the unemployed. Under the program the employer must be prepared to hire a minimum of three full time people for at least a six-week period. In return the government will share in the cost of wages.

To better explain the operation of the program Ostapiuk has provided details in a question and answer format.

What Types of Agricultural Projects Qualify?

Eligible activities would include: productivity enhancement such as expansion, upgrading or modification of facilities and equipment, erosion control, tree planting plus land reclamation or conservation activities. Projects resembling ongoing maintenance WILL NOT QUALIFY!

Who As An Employer Is Eligible?

Eligible employers include:

1. private sector employers such as farmers, businesses, etc.
2. municipalities such as counties, municipal districts, improvement districts, Indian and Metis Settlements, as well as villages, towns and cities.
3. incorporated non-profit organizations such as men's and women's service organizations, community recreational associations and other organizations, such as Scouts Canada, Meals on Wheels, etc.

   Organizations that have a board, require a board resolution supporting their project when the application is submitted.

(Cont'd)

Give Me Some Rules For An Eligible Project?

A few of the musts are:

1. A MINIMUM of three full-time positions must be created and the project must last a MINIMUM of six weeks to a MAXIMUM of 12 months.
2. Each position must provide CONTINUOUS FULL-TIME employment for 32 to 40 hours per week for the duration of the project.
3. Each position must be IN ADDITION TO the employer's regular number of employees and must NOT result in the dismissal, layoff or reduction of the regularly scheduled hours or period of work for any existing employees of the employer.
4. A private sector employer such as a farmer or businessman must contribute a MINIMUM of 65 per cent to the total cost of that project.

FOR EXAMPLE: The total project cost of a NEW fence line construction project would include the cost of the material, equipment rental costs, rental value of equipment used if the equipment is owned, supervision as well as the cost of the labor. The requirement is that the farmer cover at least 65 per cent of the project cost. In this example, the farmer must budget for and actually cover at least $13,000 of the cost of a $20,000 project before an application for that project will be considered for funding.

5. The project cannot be of a DIRECT profit-making nature. This means that it cannot generate any revenue WITHIN THE PERIOD within which the project is funded, that is A RESULT OF the project's activities. Any earnings received, while the project is in operation, must be used to decrease project costs.
6. Project activities must NOT contribute to the betterment of personal property or residences but MUST be used for business purposes.

(Cont'd)

Can I As An Employer Just Hire Anyone?

No, employees must:

1. be 16 years of age or older,
2. be an Alberta resident for at least 6 months,
3. not have been employed by the employer within the past 3 months,
4. be unemployed at project start-up, or
5. if employed, working an average of 20 hours or less per week prior to being employed under this program,
6. not include members of the immediate family of the employer, business partner, corporate officer or shareholder with more than five per cent of capital stock,
7. not be supervised by an immediate family member.

What Exactly Will The Government Fund?

The government will pay employers $5 per hour worked per employee to a maximum of 40 hours per week. There is no funding for vacation or overtime and therefore this is the responsibility of the employer. The Alberta government will provide Workers' Compensation Board coverage for the employee.

ONLY non-profit organizations can receive up to $125 per week for contribution to employee benefits such as UIC, CPP and other project related expenses.

Once I Become An ABCD Employer, What Must I Do to Continue to Qualify?

For every project, the employer must ensure that:

1. he or she is registered with Revenue Canada as an employer,
2. program guidelines are complied with,
3. proper daily employment records are kept,
4. pay cheques are issued

(Cont'd)

5. proper payroll deductions are submitted on a timely basis to the Receiver General as required by Revenue Canada,
6. there is adequate liability insurance.

What Is Necessary for the Application?

As well as completing the application, one must:

1. provide a detailed account of the project's activities including detailed plans and cost estimates,
2. if applicable, provide an explanation of how the project will provide for long range employment,
3. allow six to eight weeks for processing the application and enclosed material.

For applications and additional information, contact the Alberta Career Development and Employment at 427-4740 or call ZENITH 22078 (toll free)

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Contact: Alex Ostapiuk
556-4235

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

Except for wheat, export picture was good

Although wheat sales were down last year, Alberta's other agricultural and food products performed well in the international marketplace.

Export values, excluding wheat, were up nearly 14 per cent from 1985, according to an Alberta Agricultural statistics specialist. This is an accomplishment considering prices of many commodities were below 1985 levels.

Looking at the complete export picture, flagging wheat sales were blamed for a five per cent drop in the overall value of provincial food and agricultural exports last year, says Bill Schissel a trade statistician with the department in Edmonton. Total value of exports was just under $1.66 billion.

"The major contributor to this decline was wheat exports which fell from an already low $822 million in 1985 to $589 million in 1986," says Schissel, "This 28 per cent decline in total value resulted from both decreased shipments and lower world wheat prices.

"If we exclude the value of wheat exports from the totals for both 1985 and 1986 we find that Alberta's agricultural exports increased by a substantial 13.5 per cent in 1986 even though prices for many agricultural commodities were below 1985 levels."

Barley shipments recovered from their low levels in 1985 and even in the face of substantially lower prices in 1986, posted a 100 per cent increase in export value.

The specialist says barley shipments from Alberta in 1986 are estimated at $250 million, largely because countries such as East Germany, the Soviet Union, Saudia Arabia and the United States bought more barley and China, after a year of no barley purchases, re-entered the market.

"As a result the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) increased sales of barley to over six million metric tonnes compared to two million tonnes the previous calendar year," says Schissel.

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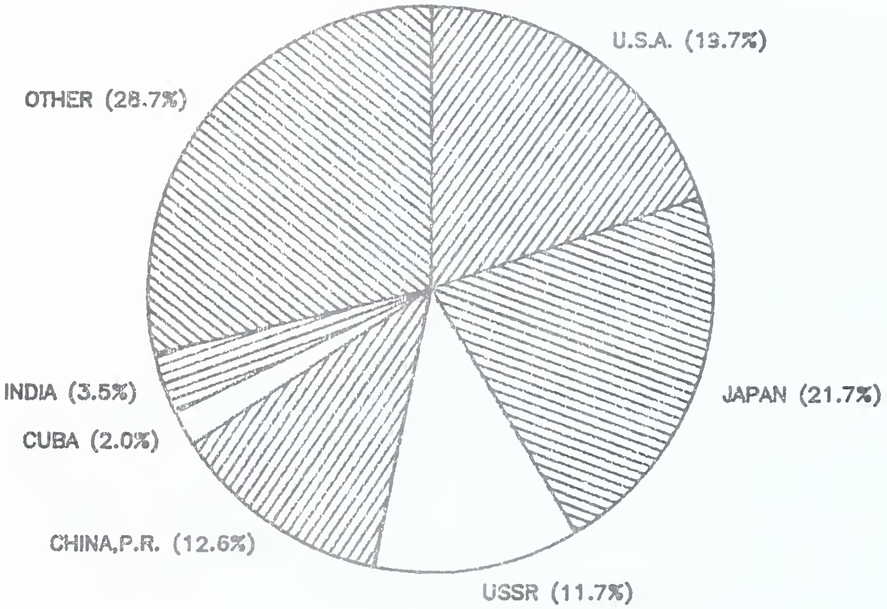
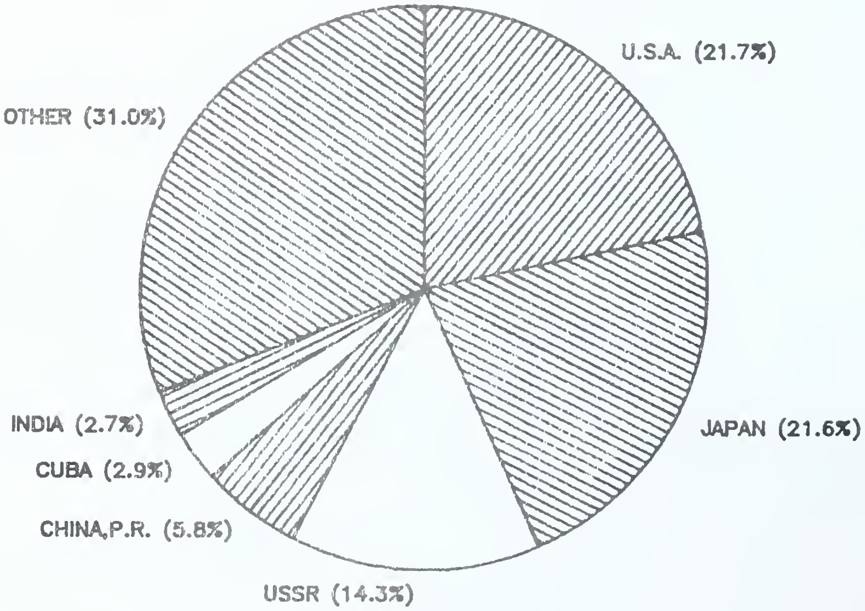
ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

by DESTINATION, 1985



ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

by DESTINATION, 1986



Except for wheat, export picture was good (cont'd)

Value of exports of live animals increased by nine per cent in 1986 to $116 million. He says increased exports of cattle to the United States more than offset the decline in hog exports caused largely by the countervailing duty applied to hogs by the United States.

Exports of meats and meat preparations were 22 per cent ahead of 1985 at $175 million. The slight decline in beef exports was more than offset by increased shipments of pork to the United States and horsemeat to Europe and Japan.

However, the value of exports of canola and canola oil were down significantly in 1986 due to global surpluses of vegetable oils and oilseeds which resulted in lower prices, says the specialist. Export values for canola meal however increased by five per cent to $30 million.

Other commodities showing export growth in 1986 were hides and skins, legume and grass seed, and peat moss.

The major markets for Alberta food and agricultural products in 1986 were the U.S.A. at $363 million and Japan at $361 million. The largest proportion of the U.S. value consisted of shipments of livestock, meat and meat products whereas shipments to Japan consisted mainly of grains and oilseeds.

"The Soviet Union, which imported wheat and barley from us almost exclusively, was the province's third largest market at $238 million," says Schissel.

Other significant markets in 1986 were People's Republic of China at $97 million (grains), Cuba $49 million (grains), India $45 million (canola oil), Taiwan $43 million (grain, hides) and East Germany $42 million (grain).

For more information on trade figures contact Bill Schissel at Alberta Agriculture Statistics Branch, 427-4011.

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Contact: Bill Schissel
427-4011

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

Hog/barley ratio favors production

According to one trusted industry measuring stick profit margins continue fairly good for hog producers.

Although figures can sometimes change quickly, the hog/barley ratio, a rough measure of profitability, indicates there is still money in raising pigs.

The hog/barley ratio calculates the number of bushels of barley required to equal the value of 100 pounds of live hog. The feed grain is used, because barley is the major production cost in raising hogs in Western Canada. In Ontario and the United States they quote a similar ratio using corn.

The lower the price of grain, the more bushels of barley or corn it takes to equal the value of 100 pounds of live hog. That translates into reduced production costs and increased profitability.

The ratio for Canada in March was calculated at 34.2 (bushels of barley per 100 pounds of live pig) compared to a 10 year average of 21.7. The ratio hasn't changed much from a year ago when it was calculated as 32.4 in March 1986. However the 1987 spring ratio is down substantially from the record high last August of 45.

In the United States the hog/corn ratio in March was 32.5 compared to their 10 year average of 19.2.

"When the ratio stays high there is usually an increase in production," says Fred Schuld, head of Alberta Agriculture's pork industry branch in Edmonton. "By industry standards the ratio is high right now. The ratio is not an accurate measure, but it is an indicator of profitability, whereas the market price of hogs, by itself, may be misleading as a measure of profitability."

Looking at market forecasts for 1987, Schuld says analysts predict Canada will see an average two per cent increase in hog marketings in 1987 compared to 1986.

(Cont'd)

According to Agriculture Canada, slaughter was down during the first quarter of the year, but is expected to increase steadily through to the fourth quarter.

Live hog exports from Canada to the United States were down nearly 50 per cent in the first part of the year. Ag Canada reported about 64,000 hogs were moved across the border in the first quarter compared to 125,000 animals for the same period in 1986.

Other predictions from the federal department indicate prices will be dropping through the year and into 1988. According to Ag Canada estimates, the 1987 price average in Alberta will be between $70 and $74 per hundredweight (cwt), dropping to a price average of between $62 and $69 per cwt for 1988.

"It is important to note, however, that average prices during certain days, weeks or months could vary outside this yearly range," says Schuld. "A case in point is the week ending May 8 in which the Alberta producer pooled price average was $78.78 per cwt and a daily pooled average price of $84.20 was achieved May 7 in Alberta.

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Contact: Fred Schuld
427-5320

May 11, 1987
For immediate release

Tours help boost Alberta nursery sales

Showing the buyers what Alberta had to offer is expected to generate nearly a million dollars in new sales for Alberta's privately owned tree nurseries.

Tours organized last year by the Landscape Alberta Nursery Trade Association, with the support of Alberta Agriculture, is expected to generate an estimated $800,000 in increased sales this year according to a survey of participating nurseries.

Mike Leslie, a specialist with Alberta Agriculture's agri-food development branch in Edmonton says the tours gave buyers from inside and outside Alberta a chance to see the range of trees, shrubs and other plants available from Alberta nurseries.

"In many cases the buyers, which included retailers, wholesalers, landscapers and architects, just weren't aware of what range and what quantity of nursery stock was produced in Alberta," he says. "The tours of 14 nurseries have proven successful and have been a boost to the industry."

Nurseries participating in the tours ranged from Edmonton and area, to Barrhead, Lacombe, Bowden, Okotoks, Red Deer, Calgary and area, and Strathmore.

The results were measured in a survey conducted this spring by department representative Donna Hadway.

There were five separate tours says Leslie, a crop marketing officer. Out-of-province guests included buyers from Alaska, B.C., Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the United States. While in-province tour members included buyers from southern Alberta who toured northern nurseries and northern buyers who toured the south.

"These tours resulted in $200,000 in direct immediate sales for the growers," he says. "Another $200,000 is expected in unconfirmed sales made for the spring of 1987 and a further $600,000 in additional sales is estimated to be made later in the 1987 buying season, because of the tours."

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The survey showed that 58 per cent of these sales were to Alberta buyers with a majority going towards stock replacement. Another 17 per cent were U.S. buyers, while 11 per cent of sales went to Saskatchewan, and seven per cent to B.C. and Manitoba.

Since the tours began in 1985, the nursery growers have reported an average increase of 20 per cent in overall sales. The growers have attributed 11 per cent of this increase directly to tours, says Leslie.

"The nursery growers established many other important benefits from the tours other than sales," he sales. "Their contacts and potential buyers' list were increased. The growers have been exposed to new market areas and have developed strategies to tap these markets. Improvements and expansions of their operations, production capacity and facilities were made. The development of sales promo material, trade show exhibits and market development plans are other areas of expansion attributed to the tours."

The marketing specialist noted that while Alberta growers supplied only 14.7 per cent of total nursery stock sold to Alberta in 1984, that has increased to 25 per cent of the total market share in 1986.

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Contact: Mike Leslie
427-7366

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

Gail Cunningham wins Premier's Award

A 17-year-old Camrose area 4-H member has been named recipient of the 1987 4-H Premier's Award.

Gail Cunningham, a seven-year member of the Bawlf 4-H Beef Club from Kelsey, a hamlet about 40 kilometres southeast of Camrose, was named winner of the award, which is the highest achievement in the Alberta 4-H program.

The 23rd Premier's Award winner was presented a trophy at the Awards Breakfast by Olds-Didsbury MLA Roy Brassard. She and her family will meet Premier Don Getty for a photo session at a future date.

Gail Cunningham receiving trophy from MLA Roy Brassard

(Cont'd)

Cunningham was among 12 finalists from around the province competing for the honor. She takes over the spot as top 4-H member from outgoing Premier's Award winner, Sherry Roth of Heisler.

"Gail and the other 11 finalists were chosen from 131 senior 4-H members attending the recent annual Provincial 4-H Selections program at Olds Community College," says Bob Coe, provincial 4-H media production specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

"Selections is an awards program where 4-H members from throughout Alberta, gather to take part in three days of activities intended to enrich their lifestyle and provide an opportunity to select award trip winners."

Sixty-one delegates were chosen to represent Alberta at major 4-H events throughout Canada and the United States.

Cunningham, experienced in 4-H public speaking, beef showmanship and school athletics, won the award trip of her choice, a tour of the Northwest Territories in late July.

More than a dozen government and private corporations sponsor the awards trips.

For information on the program contact Bob Coe in Edmonton at 427-2541.

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Contact: Bob Coe
427-2541

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

Shelterbelt policy changed

In an attempt to reduce production costs, Alberta Agriculture will begin charging a nominal fee for trees and shrubs distributed under its shelterbelt program.

Beginning with orders placed this year for trees and shrubs to be delivered in 1988, farmers will pay an application fee, as well as a nominal charge per plant, says a release from the department.

The Alberta Agriculture shelterbelt program is unique in Canada. Since 1950 it has provided an estimated 40 million trees for use in farmstead shelterbelts, field windbreaks and roadside hedges. The program distributes about 2.5 million trees annually from the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Center in northeast Edmonton.

Farmers wanting trees for 1988 must submit an application between June 1 and November 1, 1987, at an Alberta Agriculture district office. The new $25 application fee is non-refundable except for two instances. Money will be returned if the tree nursery cannot supply any of the trees requested, or if the application is received after the November 1 deadline.

After the application is received the department will check the order against its computerized inventory and mail out a delivery advice invoice. The invoice will indicate whether all, or part of the order can be supplied and request payment for those trees. Payment must be made by February 15. The following charges will apply:

- tall deciduous trees, such as poplar and willow, 24 cents each; Manitoba maple, green ash, burr oak and white birch, 40 cents each
- small deciduous trees and shrubs, such as May Day, chokecherry and red elder, 36 cents each; caragana, 12 cents each
- hedge plants, such as lilacs, honeysuckle and roses, 32 cents each
- conifers, such as spruce, pine and larch, 56 cents each
- conservation bundles, (only one per applicant) which includes a minimum of 20 plants of small fruit varieties such as Nanking cherry, Mongolian cherry and Saskatoon, $4.60 a bundle

(Cont'd)

Shelterbelt policy changed (cont'd)

As was the case with the previous policy, the department makes no guarantee of being able to supply all varieties requested on an application. Trees will be available on a first come first serve basis.

If an order is partially filled, the applicant will be sent a backorder form, so out-of-stock varieties can be reordered, or the selection changed.

No plants will be shipped without payment and all orders that are confirmed must be accepted. As has been the policy in the past, the applicant is responsible for delivery costs.

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Contact: George Grainger
973-3351

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

Don't forget the livestock manifest

Farmers and other livestock owners planning to haul cattle and horses this year are reminded that a manifest is required before they hit the road.

The livestock manifest, which has been used for years in Alberta is aimed at reducing theft of cows and horses says Bill Herbert, a spokesman for regulatory services of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

Although there are a couple exceptions, a manifest needs to be completed every time cattle or horses are hauled for commercial purposes. The manifest, which is filled out by the livestock owner, describes the type of animal, brand and brand location, and color and markings on the animal.

It must be carried in the truck and produced at the request of an RCMP officer or brand inspector. Anyone found transporting animals without a completed manifest faces a minimum $50 fine and could have a lot of explaining to do, says Herbert.

The manifest requirement is detailed in the Livestock Brand Inspection Act. It applies to anyone whether they be a rancher, hobby farmer or any livestock owner.

There are a couple exceptions to the rule, says Herbert. No manifest is needed if the livestock are driven on foot to private pasture or other similar destination that is not more than 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the farm. Regardless of the distance factor, a manifest is required if the animals are being driven to a community pasture, forest reserve, feedlot or market. The manifest is also not required if the livestock owner is taking an animal to or from a veterinary clinic.

One option for horse owners who travel a lot with their animals is an annual Horse Permit which can be issued by a branch inspector. The permit fee has increased this year to $2 from $1.

(Cont'd)

Don't forget the livestock manifest (cont'd)

The permit allows the owner to move horses, specifically identified on the permit, to any location. The permit is especially helpful for people hauling horses for range work, to gymkhanas and rodeos. Through a reciprocal agreement the Alberta permits are recongized in B.C., Saskatchewan and Montana.

Although brand inspectors will make farm visits, Herbert recommends the best way to obtain a permit is to arrange to meet a brand inspector at an auction market or rodeo and have the horse inspected there.

The livestock manifest books are available free from the regulatory services office at Alberta Agriculture headquarters at 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, from brand inspectors and from most district offices.

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Contact: Bill Herbert
427-5098

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

Agricultural lenders' manual available

The 1987 edition of the Agricultural Lenders' Manual is now available, says Douglas Barlund, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

Last year's edition has been updated with current information. As well, some pertinent data has been added from the old Farm Management Data Manual, including a list of sources of printed farm management information.

"Our first job is to fill all the standing orders that we have taken since last fall, when supplies of the 1986 edition were sold out," says Barlund. "Anyone else wanting a copy can forward a cheque for $25 per manual to Extension Services, Olds College, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0."

Described as a lenders' manual because it was developed for a workshop for bankers and other credit managers. The manual is also a useful reference for anyone looking for practical information on all kinds of agricultural enterprise matters.

The 600-page manual has proven useful to agricultural consultants, appraisers, accountants, landmen and farm owner/managers as a quick source of production and economic data that is needed to make business decisions in agriculture.

"The manual will be provided as a reference book for the next five-day Agricultural Workshop for Lenders, to be held May 31 to June 5, 1987, on campus at Olds College," says Barlund.

For further information about the manual contact Douglas Barlund at Alberta Agriculture, Farm Business Management Branch in Olds at 556-4245.

To order a copy of the manual contact Cindy Turner, Extension Services, Olds College at 556-8344.

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Contact: Cindy Turner Doug Barlund
556-8344 556-4245

Editor's note

Following are four articles on the Alberta Agriculture Summer Farm Employment Program.

This program helps farmers with the cost of hiring a summer student and provides more jobs for high school students. Deadline for applying is June 1.

Although editors and news directors are welcome to use all four articles if they wish, they are written on a regional basis quoting farmers who have participated in the program from southern Alberta, central Alberta, north central and the Peace Region.

If you wish to localize a story even further please contact program co-ordinator Bruce Jantzie in Edmonton at 427-2186 for the name of a participating farmer in your area.

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May 18, 1987
For immediate release

Although some government programs come under criticism, a central Alberta rancher says an Alberta Agriculture program which helps with summer labor costs is a good use of tax dollars.

Art Terpsma who runs a cow-calf operation near Rocky Mountain House says the Summer Farm Employment Program is a benefit to both farmers and students.

Terpsma, who has used the program for three years and plans to hire a student again this summer, says he probably couldn't afford the extra pair of hands if it wasn't for the program.

"Sometimes you think you've hired someone with two left hands, but these are just kids who are learning and it has worked out well," he says.

"Like in any job it's always going to depend on who you hire. You have to spend time to show them how things are done, but they learn quickly. We plan to hire the young fella we had last year, so most of the training work is over."

Terpsma says hopefully the program encourages more farmers to hire students, and will help more young people gain experience and responsibility which will benefit them as they get older.

Applications are now being taken for the program. Deadline is May 29.

About 30,000 students have participated in the program since it was introduced 16 years ago, says Bruce Jantzie, co-ordinator of the program with the department in Edmonton.

Under the program any Alberta farmer is eligible to hire a student, provided they are not related, and receive assistance with the wages paid. The Alberta government will pay half of the employee's monthly wage, to a maximum of $300, for each month of the program. The program runs from July 2 to August 31.

(Cont'd)

Prospective students must be at least 15 years of age and priority will be given to high school students.

"The provincial limit of 890 students is expected to be reached before this date," says Jantzie. "So I urge anyone interested to apply as soon as possible."

Applications are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Canada Farm Labour Pool. For further information about the program contact Bruce Jantzie at 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or call 427-2186.

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Contact: Bruce Jantzie
427-2186

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

For one southern Alberta dairy farmer, an Alberta Agriculture program which helps pay part of the cost of hiring a summer student, makes a big difference.

Jos Huybregts, who operates a 65-cow dairy farm near Iron Springs, a community north of Lethbridge, says if it wasn't for the program, he probably wouldn't be able to hire a student to help around the farm in summer.

Huybregts, who has participated in the Summer Farm Employment Program for three years, says he plans to make application again this month for another summer student.

The program provides reduced labor costs for the farmer as well as providing summer employment and experience for students.

"It has worked out well," says Huybregts. "The program helps me, and it also helps out the student. The program has been flexible enough to provide me with help when I need it on the farm.

The dairyman says it is important for farmers who do participate in the program to remember that students are people too.

"You can't just stick them with a lousy job for two months and expect things to go well. Sure there are some jobs that no one likes or are boring and they should learn that about life, but it is also important to give them some challenges and interesting work as well."

Applications are now being taken for the program. Deadline is May 29.

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Under the program any Alberta farmer is eligible to hire a student, provided they are not related, and receive assistance with the wages paid. The Alberta government will pay half of the employee's monthly wage, to a maximum of $300, for each month of the program. The program runs from July 2 to August 31.

(Cont'd)

Southern Region (cont'd)

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Applications are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Canada Farm Labour Pool. For further information about the program contact Bruce Jantzie at 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or call 427-2186.

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Contact: Bruce Jantzie
427-2186

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

One of the best things about having summer students work for you is seeing them mature and accomplish something in life and knowing you may have helped, says a Leduc area honey producer.

Cor DeWit, who has participated for six years in the Alberta Agriculture Summer Farm Employment Program, says both farmers and students benefit from the plan.

"We've had both male and female students working here in past summers and it is nice to see that one has gone on to be a nurse and the other is now a dentist," he says.

"Although it may be a small part of their lives they have gained some experience here and learned something about responsibility."

DeWit says the student that is returning this summer for a second season under the program, is planning to attend Fairview College after high school.

"This was a young fella who was going to finish high school and look for work. But I think by working here and getting a taste of what the work world is like, he realizes he should further his education. And it's good to know you may be helping these kids mature."

DeWit says the program has been a benefit to his operation by reducing his summer labor costs.

"Employers must realize that most of these students have never worked before and they do not have experience. In some cases they may not even be familiar with farming.

"You have to work more closely with them to show them how things are done. But they learn quickly. And it is important to give them a sense of responsibility and let them use their own heads."

Applications are now being taken for the program. Deadline is May 29.

(Cont'd)

About 30,000 students have participated in the program since it was introduced 16 years ago, says Bruce Jantzie, co-ordinator of the program with the department in Edmonton.

Under the program any Alberta farmer is eligible to hire a student, provided they are not related, and receive assistance with the wages paid. The Alberta government will pay half of the employee's monthly wage, to a maximum of $300, for each month of the program. The program runs from July 2 to August 31.

Prospective students must be at least 15 years of age and priority will be given to high school students.

"The provincial limit of 890 students is expected to be reached before this date," says Jantzie. "So I urge anyone interested to apply as soon as possible."

Applications are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Canada Farm Labour Pool. For further information about the program contact Bruce Jantzie at 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or call 427-2186.

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Contact: Bruce Jantzie
427-2186

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

Hiring a summer student is a learning experience for both sides, says a Fairview area farmer.

And Gerard Boytinck, who operates a grain farm near this Peace River region community, says a summer employment program offered by Alberta Agriculture is a good investment for everyone concerned.

Boytinck, who made use of the Summer Farm Employment Program in 1986 says it not only offers the farmer some help with labor costs, but it provides good experience for the student.

"I would certainly make use of the program again," he says. "I think the success of the plan depends on the student you hire, but for anyone willing to learn, it is worthwhile.

The farmers says he hired a high school student from town, who didn't have any farm background.

"This was a young fella who was anxious to learn and it provided good hands-on experience for him," says Boytinck. "I think it really helped to further that boy's education.

" And I think it also helps when he goes back to school or hears "city people" talking because he is going to understand farm life. He's going to know what rural living is all about."

Applications are now being taken for the program. Deadline is May 29.

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Contact: Bruce Jantzie
427-2186

May 18, 1987
For immediate release

Alberta Wage Subsidy Program continues

The Alberta Wage Subsidy Program will continue to be funded in the 1987 provincial budget. Designed to assist the Alberta unemployed, this program will continue to be of interest to farm and agri-business managers.

The program's main objective is to assist employers create additional positions.

Here are some program details.

What Type of Work Does Not Qualify For Funding

An example of what does qualify, perhaps can best be described in terms of what does not qualify. Positions for the following work do NOT qualify. These are:

1) work that has been obtained through a bidding or tendering process
2) personal domestic work
3) personal child care activities
4) anything that contributes to the betterment of personal property or residence - except business property.

Who As An Employer Is Eligible?

Eligible employers:

1) include private sector employers such as farmers, businesses, etc. whether organized as a single proprietor, partnership, joint venture or corporation,
2) must provide necessary training and supervision

(Cont'd)

What Are Some Rules For An Eligible Position?

A few of the musts are:

1) a position must provide full-time CONTINUOUS employment for a MINIMUM of three months, up to a MAXIMUM of six months, with no possibility for extensions,
2) positions OR similar positions funded within the last six months are NOT eligible,
3) each position must provide CONTINUOUS FULL-TIME employment for a MINIMUM of 32 hours per week to a MAXIMUM of 40 hours for the duration of the position,
4) each position must be IN ADDITION TO the employer's regular number of employees and MUST NOT result in the dismissal, lay-off or reduction of the regularly scheduled hours or period of work for any existing employees of the employer.

Can I As An Employer Just Hire Anyone?

No, employees must:

1) be 16 years of age or older,
2) be an Alberta resident for at least six months,
3) not have been funded by this program within the last six months,
4) be unemployed at project start-up, or
5) if employed, working an average of 20 hours or less per week PRIOR to being employed under this program,
6) be working NOT MORE THAN 20 hours for another employer while being funded under this program,
7) not include members of the immediate family of the employer, business partner, corporate officer or shareholder with more than five per cent of capital stock,
8) not be supervised by an immediate family member.

(Cont'd)

What Exactly Will The Government Fund?

The government will fund employers for wages on an EQUAL cost-shared basis (50%) up to a maximum government contribution of $2.50 per hour worked. For an employer to get the full government funding of $2.50 per hour, the employer must pay the employee at least $5.00 per hour or more.

Employers MUST pay employees funded under this program AT LEAST $3.80 per hour and therefore be eligible for $1.90 per hour government funding.

During the contract period, the Alberta Government will provide Workers' Compensation coverage for employees funded under the program. This coverage WILL NOT DECREASE the per hour funding.

Once I Become An Approved Employer, What Must I Do to Continue to Qualify?

For every project, the employer must ensure that:

1) he or she is registered with Revenue Canada as an employer
2) program guidelines are complied with
3) proper daily employment records are kept
4) pay cheques are issued
5) proper payroll deductions are submitted on a timely basis to the Receiver General as required by Revenue Canada
6) there is adequate liability insurance

What Is Necessary for the Application?

One application for each project having one or more employees.

NOTE:

If you as an employer are applying for funding for a new position under

(Cont'd)

the Alberta Wage Subsidy Program, an employee CANNOT be hired until the application is approved UNLESS Alberta Career and Employment is telephoned at the number listed below.

The Alberta Business and Community Development (ABCD) Program

Employers, hiring three or more full-time employees for a project lasting six weeks to one year, should check out details on this program.

FOR APPLICATIONS and ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Alberta Career Development and Employment at 427-4740
OR Zenith 22078 (Toll Free)

Contact: Alex Ostapiuk
556-4235

AL-1 691

JUN - 2 1987

AGRI-NEWS

May 25, 1987

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 25, 1987
For immediate release

Parents and pet owners should watch for poison

Not only dogs and cats are threatened by people who put out poison bait for pets, but young children are also at risk, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

In the wake of recent reports about dogs being poisoned, the public should be on guard for the ever-ingenuis booby traps that can cause sickness and even death for both pets and children.

With dozens of children checked at hospital annually because some sort of backyard poisoning is suspected and as many as 250 reported cases a year of strychnine poisoning in dogs, Dr. Byron Beck says parents and pet owners need to be on their toes.

Beck says there is constant advisory for people to properly store and handle household and farm chemicals, prescription drugs and other toxic substances. But he says there is another area of concern that needs to be flagged.

"Malicious poisoning of dogs or wildlife is always considered a reprehensible act," says the head of the department's toxicology laboratory in Edmonton. "But unfortunately it is a very real fact of life. It should not only be a concern to pet owners, but parents also need to be vigilant.

"As it is, there are far too many opportunities for accidents to happen without a small child running the risk of eating poison bate that some malicious individual left out to kill a dog or a cat."

Beck says people bent on getting rid of neighboring pets are showing greater imagination and ingenuity in developing toxic substances. Most often these substances are hidden in baited food that can present a hazard to small children who tend to put everything in their mouths.

A recent survey showed that in Edmonton alone, 78 children were treated at the University of Alberta Hospital, over a three year period, for eating suspicious substances found in the backyard.

Beck says not all of these cases involved poisons planted to destroy pets, but many did.

(Cont'd)

Although the Alberta Agriculture Toxicology Laboratory in Edmonton doesn't get directly involved with human victims, it is the only facility in the province that can diagnose poisons that kill animals.

That service and information is available to all investigators and medical health officials.

The lab provides expertise and works closely with the SPCA, humane societies, the police and other agencies concerned about the deliberate poisoning of pets and the hazard this creates for the general public.

Beck says as industry produces more new chemicals, and as individuals create their own lethal concoctions, it becomes more difficult to provide diagnoses.

"Strychnine used to be the leading poison, but now as the regulations concerning its use have tightened up, other substances are being used.

"Many new and unique products are being used, which creates considerable challenge for the veterinary toxicology laboratory. Some 10 different new poisons have been used and their identification is important, so proper treatment can be used in treating the sick animal."

The department specialist says it is important for people to be aware this type of deliberate hazard exists.

He says there is no way to predict when a culprit will strike, so people need to watch for strange substances that show up in their yards and back alleys.

"These substances can take many forms. Most often it is some sort of food product that has been tainted and left as bait. It can also be something like a small pail of anti-freeze - which is quite toxic - and is left out for pets to drink. Small children can also get into this and become quite ill."

Beck says anyone suspecting their child or pet has been in contact with some poison should get immediate medical attention. They should also try to bring a sample of the suspect material in for analysis.

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Contact: Dr. Byron Beck
436-8410

May 25, 1987
For immediate release

Poisons do have a good side

Although poisons, by design, aren't supposed to be "good" consumer products, they do have a useful role when handled properly, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Dr. Byron Beck, head of the department's toxicology laboratory in Edmonton, says poisons, like many other substances can be of benefit to society when used as intended.

"As an example, strychnine is a pesticide used extensively in agriculture to control very damaging pests such as gophers, pocket voles and sheep-killing coyotes," he says. "Like all agricultural chemicals when used properly, improved production and benefits are derived. Unfortunately, this pesticide sometimes serves as a source of poison for the malicious individual."

The toxicology lab, which is part of department's animal health division provides the only service of its kind in Alberta. It has a long-standing reputation of providing expert diagnosis and advice to veterinarians, medical health officials, humane societies and police, on poisons and toxins found in animals.

The laboratory staff, headed by Beck, works with animal blood and tissue samples submitted by veterinarians from across the province. They analyse the samples and provide diagnosis of the cause of death or illness. They can prescribe appropriate treatment and assist the clinic during the animal's recovery period.

In cases where foul play is suspected in the poisoning of an animal, laboratory staff have provided expert evidence and testimony to the police and courts.

Because of abuses made of strychnine -- as many as 250 reported cases in Alberta of strychnine poisoning in dogs in one year -- the lab has supported efforts by the pesticide chemicals branch of Alberta Environment and the pest control division of Alberta Agriculture, to curtail the "improper use and availability of strychnine".

(Cont'd)

These efforts led to control measures such as: limiting the concentration of strychnine which may be sold to the public; strychnine may not be displayed on open counters or shelves; and the purchaser must sign a register with their name and address.

The laboratory head says poisons such as strychnine which have a legitimate role in agriculture work, can be unjustly criticized.

"Agriculture pest control officers use a chemically labelled form of strychinine so its use and distribution can be carefully identified and monitored," he says. "When a neighbor's dogs were poisoned by an officially set bait it proved the dogs were guilty of killing sheep. Their fatal confession exonerated the innocent, but considered guilty coyote. The control of agricultural pests and preditors is an unpleasant, but sometimes necessary managment tool for farmers."

The veterinarian says there isn't much the system can do to stop devious minds intent on deliberately poisoning pets. He says as controls tighten in the use of chemicals, dog poisoners come up with new and imaginative ways to do their malicious deeds.

However, he warns anyone in care or control of poisons or other toxic substances to treat them with respect.

"Many of the accidental poisonings that occur are because of careless storage and handling of the chemicals," says Beck. "The product is left on a shelf and spilled on feed which is fed to animals. Or it is left too accessible and a child takes a drink from a bottle. Or bottles or bags of unused chemicals are left in a cupboard for years and years and finally no one remembers anymore what's in the container and it is disposed of improperly."

He says properly used and properly stored poisons and chemicals can legitimately provide a service to the agriculture industry.

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Contact: Dr. Byron Beck
436-8410

May 25, 1987
For immediate release

Summerfallow can produce higher returns

Although summerfallow is sometimes criticized, an Alberta Agriculture study shows the practice can generate higher net returns for farmers.

Results from two years of data from the ongoing crop case study show that farms with a summerfallow rotation generally have lower production costs, says Lloyd Andruchow, supervisor of crop economics in Edmonton.

The study, conducted by the production and resource economics branch involves 34 crop farms in the black soil zone of the Vermilion region. In this area the number of farms with summerfallow rotation compared to continuous cropping rotation is about equal.

A summerfallow rotation is defined as a cropping system in which a minimum of 20 per cent of the cultivated area is fallowed, says Andruchow.

"The results for both 1985 - a year in which moisture conditions were less than adequate during the growing season, and 1986 - a year in which moisture conditions were generally good to excellent in the Vermilion region, have some grain producers taking a second look at the two cropping systems," he says.

The continuous cropping system in 1985 incurred direct cash costs of $76.51 per cultivated acre, about 50 per cent more than the summerfallow system. The additional returns for the continuous cropping system ($25.97 per acre) were just enough to cover the additional cash costs, giving both systems a similar return over cash costs (see details in Table 1).

"The farms which were continuously cropped were generally more indebted, at 21 per cent as opposed to 13 per cent for the farms which were summerfallowed," says the specialist. "As expected, the continuously cropped farms had a significantly higher machinery investment and labor requirement.

(Cont'd)

"Total capital/unpaid labor costs amounted to $48.37 per acre for the summerfallow system, and $64.71 for the continuous cropping system. The continuous cropping system in 1985 failed to provide additional returns to cover the higher fixed costs.

Total production cost per cultivated acre for the summerfallow rotation was $99.38 compared to $141.22 for continuous cropping. Both farming systems had negative returns to equity in 1985, but the summerfallow rotation showed a shortfall of $9.81 in comparison to $25.68 per acre for continuous cropping.

TABLE 1

1985 Cost and Return Comparison
Vermilion Region

	Summerfallow	Continuous Cropping
	- - - - $ Per Cultivated Acre - - - -	
GROSS RETURNS	89.57	115.54
CASH COSTS		
Fertilizer	14.39	22.33
Chemicals	7.42	11.85
Fuel & Repairs	12.45	16.47
Other Cash	16.75	25.86
TOTAL	51.01	76.51
RETURN OVER CASH COSTS	38.56	39.03
CAPITAL COSTS AND UNPAID LABOR		
Cash Rent/Crop Share	15.92	10.91
Depreciation	16.46	27.11
Interest on Capital Loans	6.02 (13% Debt)	12.45 (21% Debt)
Operator Labor	9.97	14.24
TOTAL	48.37	64.71
TOTAL PRODUCTION COSTS	99.38	141.22
RETURN TO EQUITY	-9.81	-25.68

(Cont'd)

The study participants provided costs and returns data for each crop grown on summerfallow and stubble. With this information an analysis of costs and returns for summerfallow crops versus stubble crops was made. The costs of summerfallowing were added to the summerfallow crop budget.

Wheat grown on summerfallow had a total production cost of $152.96 per acre, compared with $127.47 per acre for wheat stubble, says Andruchow. Using a wheat price of $3.80 per bushel for the 1985 crop, an additional yield of 6.7 bushels was required to cover the cost of summerfallowing.

With an observed yield difference of 8.27 bushels (39.1 for wheat fallow versus 30.83 for wheat stubble and taking into account the grade difference) wheat summerfallow showed a profit of $9.26 per acre, while the wheat stubble enterprise was short $9.07, a difference of $18.33 per acre.

Results for canola summerfallow versus canola stubble were even more contrasting, he says.

The analysis of production costs indicated an additional two bushels per acre was required to cover the additional summerfallow cost. However, since yield from summerfallow exceeded stubble by 9.47 bushels, (27.66 versus 18.19 for canola stubble) the canola fallow enterprise showed a profit of $26.75 per acre compared to a loss of $18.09 for canola stubble, a difference of $44.84 per acre.

"Given the severe drought stress which occurred in 1985, significant yield differentials were expected between summerfallow and stubble crops," he says. "As mentioned earlier, the yield differences were not only adequate in covering additional costs but were also sufficiently high to provide a profit margin for both canola and wheat grown on summerfallow."

The 1985 crop case study was expanded in 1986 as additional cash income was included to complete the cash inflow for grain farming.

Income from the western grain stabilization program fertilizer program and fuel rebates averaged $22.66 per cultivated acre for farms with continuous cropping while it was $17.29 for farms with summerfallow rotation (see details in Table 2).

(Cont'd)

The difference between the cash costs incurred by the continuous cropping system and summerfallow system was magnified in 1986. Direct cash costs for the summerfallow system averaged $41.92 per cultivated acre and $75.90 for continuous cropping.

Similar to 1985, the additional gross returns of $39.47 per acre for the continuous cropping system was sufficient to cover the higher cash cost, but once again fell short in covering the higher fixed cost.

TABLE 2

1986 Costs and Returns Comparison
Vermilion Region

	Summerfallow		Continuous Cropping	
	- - - - $ Per Cultivated Acre - - - -			
GROSS RETURNS				
Crop Sales & Crop Ins.	82.73		116.83	
Miscellaneous	17.29		22.66	
TOTAL	100.02		139.49	
CASH COSTS				
Fertilizer	10.27		20.35	
Chemicals	5.67		11.85	
Fuel & Repairs	9.26		15.03	
Other Cash	16.72		28.67	
TOTAL	41.92		75.90	
RETURN OVER CASH COSTS	58.10		63.59	
CAPITAL COSTS AND UNPAID LABOR				
Cash Rent/Crop Share	7.04		7.12	
Depreciation	19.56		24.20	
Interest on Capital Loans	8.53	(16% Debt)	17.54	(30% Debt)
Operator Labor	9.73		14.27	
TOTAL	44.86		63.13	
TOTAL PRODUCTION COSTS	86.78		139.03	
RETURN TO EQUITY	13.24		0.46	

(Cont'd)

"The farms continuously cropping were more in debt (30 per cent as opposed to 16 per cent for summerfallow farms) and had a much higher machinery investment and labor requirement," says Andruchow. "These costs amounted to $63.13 for continuous cropping and $44.86 per acre for summerfallow farms.

"The total production cost of $139.03 per acre for continuous cropping was about 60 per cent higher than the $86.78 calculated for the summerfallow farms. Return over production cost averaged $0.46 per acre for the continuous cropping rotation and $13.24 per acre for the summerfallow system."

As moisture conditions became less of a factor in the 1986 crop production year, it was expected the yield difference for summerfallow crops and stubble crops to converge.

The data obtained for wheat summerfallow fields was insufficient for analysis in 1986. However, an analysis for canola summerfallow versus canola stubble was made.

The production costs for canola on stubble exceeded that for canola on summerfallow (see details in Table 3). In fact, using the 1986 production cost information and 1986 canola price, the canola stubble crop required an additional 1.32 bushels per acre to equal canola summerfallow.

Yields for canola summerfallow, however, exceeded canola stubble yields by 7.0 bushels. The end result was that canola stubble in 1986 showed a loss of $6.87 per acre while canola on fallow had a profit of $22.32 per acre - a difference of $29.19.

"On a bushel produced basis, the production costs for canola on summerfallow averaged $4.46 per bushel, or $1.51 per bushel lower than the $5.97 calculated for canola on stubble," says Andruchow. "The fact that continuous cropping has not been profitable in the last two years is a direct result of crop prices being too low to pay for the relatively more expensive output produced from the highly intensified continuous cropping system.

(Cont'd)

Summerfallow can produce higher returns (cont'd)

TABLE 3

1986 Costs and Returns Comparison for Canola Production on Summerfallow Versus Stubble Vermilion Region

	Canola Summerfallow		Canola Stubble	
	- - - - - - Owned Land - - - - - - -			
GROSS RETURNS				
Average Yield, Bu/Acre	31.45		24.45	
	- - - - - - - $ Per Acre - - - - - - -			
Crop Sales & Crop Ins	140.85	4.48/bu	112.72	4.61/bu
Miscellaneous	21.61		26.34	
TOTAL	162.46		139.06	
CASH COSTS				
Fertilizer	10.77		22.83	
Chemicals	13.04		16.62	
Fuel and Repairs	12.02		16.29	
Other Cash	21.75		29.11	
Summerfallow Cash Costs	11.23		0.00	
TOTAL	68.81	2.19/bu	84.85	3.47/bu
RETURN OVER CASH COSTS	93.65	2.98/bu	54.21	2.22/bu
CAPITAL COSTS AND UNPAID LABOR				
Depreciation	26.52		27.89	
Interest on Capital Loans	8.09		18.03	
Summerfallow Fixed Costs	23.43		0	
Operator Labor	13.29		15.16	
TOTAL	71.33		61.08	
TOTAL PRODUCTION COSTS	140.14	4.46/bu	145.93	5.97/bu
RETURN TO EQUITY	22.32		-6.87	

(Cont'd)

Another aspect of the high volume - low margin continuous cropping system is the degree of risk associated with stubble yields.

"With cash margins being low for average yielding stubble crops and knowing the coefficient of variation is considerably higher for stubble crops relative to summerfallow crops, any adverse weather could potentially create a cash loss on every acre cropped," says the specialist. "A summerfallow system, once in place, will virtually guarantee a profit margin on a portion of the seeded area even in years when growing conditions are less favorable."

Andruchow says farmers should carefully assess these two cropping systems looking at their individual management ability, geographic location, capital commitments, and the ability to assume risk.

For more information on the study contact Lloyd Andruchow in Edmonton at 427-4001.

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Contact: Lloyd Andruchow
427-4001

May 25, 1987
For immediate release

Sexed-semen is still a myth

There's is no such thing as sexed semen and Alberta cattlemen should be cautious about anyone promising the sperm they sell for artificial insemination will specifically produce either bull or heifer calves.

A specialist with Alberta Agriculture says according to scientific research the chances of this semen producing either male or females is about 50:50, which is the same odds offered by Mother Nature.

Dr. Laura Rutter, a reproductive physiologist with Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch in Emdonton, says there are claims about tests being made to ensure the semen is sex-separated, but there is no evidence these tests work.

"The availability of sex-separated semen is, once again, being promoted in the popular press," says Rutter. "Promotors of sexed semen claim that several tests are used after the separation process to determine if the separation was successful.

"Most of these tests relate to differences in the size, weight, electrical charge and/or motility of male versus female sperm and differences in their ability to survive in acidic or basic conditions."

She says reviews of the last 15 years of research conducted on sex separation techniques have concluded that no reliable method has been developed.

The research shows:

1. None of the methods that are presently available for use in separating viable male and female sperm of domestic animals has been shown to be effective.
2. The only demonstrable difference between male and female sperm of domestic animals is DNA content.
3. Few new and powerful techniques which provide for rapid assessment of the effectiveness of separation methods have been developed. These techniques may form the basis for development of a reliable process for separating semen.

(Cont'd)

Sexed-semen is still a myth (cont'd)

"Currently, respected scientists in the field are attempting to determine if male sperm produce different proteins than do female sperm," says Rutter. "These different proteins could be detectable on the sperm head surface by highly specific antibodies.

"To date, a specific protein found only on one sex of sperm has not been isolated. The scientists working on this aspect of sex separation suggest that if the protein is there, it will be at least another two years before it can be isolated.

"Meanwhile, claims of having reliable sexed semen or other ways to improve the desired sex ratio will continue to crop up. All available evidence suggests that you pay your money and take your chances. My guess is you will get 50:50."

To support her statement the specialist prepared a summary of some of the indicators tested, the results and the scientist involved. In all cases the tests were unable to isolate any distinguishing features in semen.

Sex ratio evaluation of purportedly enriched bull semen (a)

Basis of Separation	Effect on Sex Ratio	Scientists
Weight	None	Krznaowski (1970) Courot & Esnault (1973)
Electrical Charge	None	Hafs & Boyd (1970) Hahn et al (1975) Uivland & Willems (1975)
Size	None	Henriet & Jaumotte(1979) Luderer et al (1982)
Motility	None	Beal et al (1984)
Combinations (size, motility, charge)	None	Foote (1984)

(a) Adapted from Foote (1982) and Garner (1984).

For more information, contact Laura Rutter in Edmonton at 427-5304.

Contact: Laura Rutter - 427-5304.

May 25, 1987
For immediate release

You may owe more than you think

After the blood, sweat and tears of filing their 1986 tax return, some tax-filers may be faced with some irritating news, says Merle Good, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture in Olds.

Good says those farmers claiming an Investment Tax Credit may still have some paperwork and added expense ahead of them.

"The story centres around the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and the new Minimum Tax calculation," says Good. "If you earned or carried forward any investment tax credits and applied these credits against your federal tax payable, but failed to fill in the T691-Calculation of Minimum Tax Form (which was not provided in your Farmers' Guide or the T1 General) you and your accountant may be in for a big surprise.

"The surprise may be a reassessment notice indicating that you owe more to the Revenue Canada because of the interaction between the Investment Tax Credits and the Minimum Tax rules."

Good says the Investment Tax Credit cannot be claimed against federal tax when calculating minimum tax liability. Under certain circumstances, this rule can trigger a minimum tax liability even though the taxpayer had no idea that a tax calculation for minimum tax purposes was necessary.

To illustrate the problem, Good provides the example of Farmer Campbell who has a taxable income of $44,660 and $10,000 of available tax credits.

(Cont'd)

Farmer Campbell's Regular and Minimum Tax Calculations

	Regular Tax Return	Minimum Tax Calculations
Campbell's Income	$ 60,000	$ 60,000
Less: RRSP contributions	7,500	----
Personal exemptions	7,840	7,840
Minimum Tax Exemptions	0	40,000
Taxable Income	$ 44,660	12,160
Federal Tax	10,135	2,023
Less ITC claimed	10,000	0
Net Federal Tax	$ 135	$ 2,023
Provincial 43.5% of Federal Tax	4,400	4,400*
TOTAL TAX LIABILITY	$ 4,535	$ 6,423

* Provincial Tax is 43.5% of the higher Federal Tax under both calculations.

Good says Farmer Campbell could have sent a cheque for $4,535 for his tax liability. But then he could have been re-assessed for $6,423, which is the greater of the two calculations. This is because the RRSP contribution and the Investment Tax Credit are not allowable deductions under the Minimum Tax calculation.

"Some taxpayers and their accountants, when shown this example will say that Campbell can recoup this excess tax paid of $1,888 ($2,023 federal minimum tax minus $135.00 regular federal tax) during the next seven years," says Good.

"The Minimum Tax rules do indeed state, that if minimum tax exceeds regular tax payable in a year, this excess can be carried forward and applied to any subsequent seven years where the regular tax liability exceeds the minimum tax liability. This is true, except where the investment tax credit is involved.

The economist says in Campbell's case, the minimum federal tax ($2,023) does not exceed the regular federal tax ($10,135) and no carry-forward of the $1,888 is allowed.

(Cont'd)

You may owe more than you think (cont'd)

To avoid the problem, Campbell could have claimed only $8,112 of his investment tax credit. His regular federal tax payable would then have increased to $2,023 which equals his minimum federal tax payable of $2,023. He then would have been able to carry-forward his investment tax credit of $1,888 ($10,000 of ITC available minus $8,112 of ITC claimed).

By adjusting the investment tax credit claimed, a taxpayer can transform a non-carry-forward position under minimum tax to a carry-forward position under the investment tax credit rules, says Good.

"When claiming an investment tax credit, always adjust, if necessary, the investment tax credit claim, to make your minimum and regular federal tax liability equal," he says.

"This sounds simple, but if you don't have a computer tax package, the number-crunching, may, like smoking, be 'injurious to your health'."

Good says producers who suspect they may be like Farmer Campbell, should contact their accountant and fill in the T691- Minimum Tax Calculation Form.

"If you find yourself in Campbell's shoes, submit the minimum tax form as well as a revised Investment Tax Credit form (T2038) with a letter to Revenue Canada requesting a reduction in your investment tax credit claim," says Good. "Perhaps when Revenue Canada cashes your cheque for the difference in taxes owing, they will also agree to adjust the investment tax credit claim as requested."

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

May 25, 1987
For immediate release

Probes can't outguess Mother Nature

Although probes may be useful in determining if a cow is ready to be bred, scientists say don't rely on vaginal probes to outsmart mother nature if you're trying to manipulate the sex of calves.

While some say a producer can affect the sex ratio of conceptions by breeding the cow at specific stages of the heat cycle, there is no scientific evidence to bear this out, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Dr. Laura Rutter, a reproductive physiologist with the beef cattle and sheep branch in Edmonton says the theory promoted is that if a cow is impregnated at a certain stage of the heat cycle it will influence the sex of the calf.

She says people who are promoting the use of vaginal probes to determine the time in the heat cycle that will improve the chances of conceiving either a male or female calf, don't have much to back their claims.

"In the past two or three months, I have had several inquiries from both dairymen and cattlemen regarding the advisability of using vaginal probe readings to select a breeding time that will increase the chances of obtaining a desired sex of calf," she says. "Vaginal probes measure the electrical resistance of cervical and vaginal mucus secretions.

"The theory behind the development of the probe is scientifically sound, in that high estrogen levels cause a decrease in electrical resistance of the vaginal/cervical mucus. But the bottom line is that it doesn't work in helping manipulate the sex of calves conceived."

High estrogen levels induce standing heat and also induce the ovulatory gonadotropin surge which causes release of an egg from a mature follicle, she says. So, in theory, electrical resistance readings should be lowest at the time of the ovulatory gonadotropin surge.

(Cont'd)

Probes can't outguess Mother Nature (cont'd)

This would coincide with the onset of standing heat and would be near the time of ovulation for insemination purposes. In practice, 70 to 80 per cent of dairy females tested with the probe on both commercial and research farms (Dr. R. H. Foote and co-workers, Cornell University) had their lowest electrical resistance reading on the day of estrus. The 20 to 30 per cent who did not have low resistance readings on the day of estrus may have had subclinical infections, metritis, faulty estrus detection, cystic ovaries and other unknown causes.

"In herds where heat detection is a problem, such as in dairies where the females are continuously kept in stanchions, the vaginal probe could be used effectively to determine when the cows were in heat," says Rutter. "To be used accurately, however, electrical resistance readings would need to be made every 12 hours around the time of expected estrus.

"Unfortunately some of the promotional literature for vaginal probes includes instructions on when to breed to increase the probability of getting a specific sex.

"This literature also contains testimonials on how sex ratios had been altered. The theory is that timing of breeding either soon after the onset of heat, near the end of the heat period, or a number of hours after standing heat has ended will influence the sex ratio."

Rutter says according to a well-respected scientist, R. H. Foote, Cornell University, who was involved in the design and original testing of vaginal probes, insemination at different times during estrus has no effect on the sex ratio.

Dr. Foote has published data on thousands of dairy cows who were inseminated at various times during the heat period. The resulting sex ratio: 50 per cent males, 50 per cent females, regardless of when the cows were bred during the heat period.

For more information contact Laura Rutter in Edmonton 427-5304.

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Contact: Laura Rutter
427-5304

May 25, 1987
For immediate release

"Dean" Harry Warne to retire

One of Canada's leading authorities on farm financial managment is retiring after 32 years of service.

Harry Warne, who began his career as an instructor at Fairview College and has specialized in farm financial management with Alberta Agriculture since 1975, will be leaving his post in Olds, June 15.

Wilson Loree, head of the department's farm business management branch, in making the announcement, said Warne has made a significant contribution to the industry.

"Harry Warne is recognized as the provincial specialist in farm financial management, not only within Alberta Agriculture but among agribusiness, farm clients and across Canada," said Loree.

"Harry's credibility, initiative and commitment in financial management areas results in a significant contribution to department programs. Thinking back on how many people worked with Harry and the major influence he had on all people he instructed and supervised, it's no wonder he is known as the 'Dean of Financial Management'".

The specialist obtained his bachelor of science degree in general agriculture in 1952 and bachelor of education degree majoring in biology in 1965 from the University of Alberta.

While attending university he spent three summers working for Agriculture Canada on two separate projects. In 1949 and 1950 he was involved in soil survey work in southern Alberta. In 1951 he was a student assistant in the Yukon in charge of field crops.

In October 1952 he was both an instructor in dairying and poultry for Fairview College as well as dairy inspector and poultry fieldman for Alberta Agriculture in the Peace River district.

While the college was rebuilding from a fire, from May 1958 to September 1960 he took a break from teaching and was a partner in a dairy processing plant and egg grading station.

In September 1960 he returned to Fairview College and for 11 years taught farm accounting, credit and finance, estate planning, farm cost accounting, commercial accounting and business mathematics.

(Cont'd)

Throughout his years at the college, Warne was a member of the alumni association and helped revitalize the group in 1973. He also served three years as Dean of Men. In 1972 Warne was promoted to senior instructor supervising the work of up to four instructors.

In 1975, he joined Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch which was then in Edmonton.

"Harry's dedicated attitude, loyalty and long hours assisted in the rebuilding of Fairview College and in the growth of the farm business management branch after decentralizing to Olds," said Loree.

"The scope and responsibility of his position as the supervisor of the financial management section increased significantly when he started with the department. Changing needs of the agricultural industry, federal taxation legislation, inflating land values, increased operating costs coupled with high interest rates and credit requirements increased demand for programs in financial management. Harry was a key person in responding to these needs."

Loree says examples of this response are evident in the development of the Agricultural Lenders Workshop, the accountants and lawyers farm tax update courses, and the development of the curriculum and materials for the Gear-Up Financially courses.

Warne, who is taking advantage of the Alberta Government's Early Retirement Program, was involved in numerous committees, conferences and professional associations dealing with a wide range of topics.

Some of these committees include Commercial Credit Options for the Beef and Sheep Industries, Alberta Agriculture committee reviewing Section 31 of the Income Tax Act, Alberta Agriculture Equity Finance Committee as well as various public and private credit policy committees.

Warne is still an active member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists, the Canadian Agriculture Economics and Farm Management Association, and the Alberta Agricultural Economics Association. He also participates in various public and private credit policy committees.

"Therefore, it was not surprising that it was a nomination to chair yet another committee that hastened his retirement announcement to staff in Olds," says Loree.

"Dean" Harry Warne to retire (cont'd)

"Besides professional achievements and major contributions, Harry's greatest legacy may be the transfer of his knowledge and conscientious devotion to Alberta Agriculture through the more than 60 people he has directly trained and supervised throughout his career. This dedication as teacher, supervisor and co-worker has earned Harry the admiration and respect of not only department staff but also all other professionals that have had the opportunity to work with Harry."

Farm management specialist Merle Good, who has worked directly with Warne for seven years says, "Harry is a 'people' person. He's an innovator and always has the farmer, producer, or employee first in his mind. By myself and all other staff members, Harry will be remembered for his expertise and credibility as an agricultural economist and as a 'gentleman' to his staff."

Loree said he accepted Warne's resignation, with regret but wishes him the best.

"I hope Harry will enjoy his well earned retirement years. He will be missed not only by branch and department personnel but by his clients - the Alberta farmer," says Loree.

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Contact: Wilson Loree
556-4213

May 25, 1987
For immediate release

Players dedicated to meeting computer challenge

Industry and government alike are committed to developing new computer programs and services to better serve the agricultural community, says the chairman of a recent conference in Calgary.

Wilson Loree says computer and management experts along with industry software developers and marketers, and agricultural extension specialists have agreed that the computer industry must be in step with ever-changing needs of agriculture.

More than 100 participants, speakers and industry representatives were brought together in the first-ever Canadian conference on agriculture computing.

Loree, head of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds, says speakers discussed topics ranging from visions for agriculture in the 1990's to planning for people as users of systems. He says there were "rousing" panel discussions on such topics as the software review process and the roles of industry and government in the agricultural computer field.

Organized by the farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture in co-operation with Olds College and the University of Alberta, the conference was considered a success by participants from across Canada, says the chairman.

"It provided an opportunity for participants to address questions on the state of agriculture in Canada and to discuss the special challenges and needs of a changing agriculture scene," says Loree. "Software developers took advantage of the opportunity to make business contacts and discuss possible new directions for software development in agriculture, and how to better address their products for an ever-changing market."

(Cont'd)

Players dedicated to meeting computer challenge (cont'd)

Speakers included Doug Radke, assistant deputy minister, Alberta Agriculture, Ken Stickland, agriculture consultant, Dr. Steve Harsh, professor of agricultural economics at Michigan State University, and Lyle Warrington, past president of the Association of Agricultural Computing Companies (AACC) in the U.S. More than a dozen other speakers from industry, government and academic institutions were on hand to present their viewpoints.

Radke, along with other speakers, participated in a discussion on the roles and opportunities for the public and private sectors in the agricultural software industry.

Other highlights of the conference included topics presented by Dr. Harsh and Dr. Kraft. They discussed requirements and opportunities for future agricultural software developments.

Dr. Kraft, a professor of agricultural economics at the University of Manitoba, focused on an integrated system approach.

In addition, Wayne Jones of Agriculture Canada, Mona Cox of Alberta Agriculture and Dr. Gordon Wells of Biotechnica Canada discussed changes in agriculture from economic, social and technical viewpoints.

Closing speakers John Duvenaud, manager of Grassroots Information Services Ltd. and University of Alberta professor Dr. Bert Einsiedel gave their views on why some farmers use computers and others do not.

In particular, Einseidel pointed out why it takes "more than the availability and affordability of computer hardware and software for people to want to adopt and use a system."

"Conference coordinators are pleased with results and are looking forward to working closely with private industry in planning a 1988 conference," says Loree. "Any organization or individual interested in participating is invited to contact the farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture at 403-556-4240.

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Contact: Wilson Loree
556-4240

May 25, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

MORE THAN 63,000 BAGS OF GARBAGE COLLECTED

Alberta 4-H clubs and other youth groups picked up more than 63,000 bags of garbage from provincial roadsides during a clean-up campaign over two weekends this month. Bad weather forced some groups to delay their sweep of highway ditches for about a week. But when the dust had settled it was estimated that more than 9,300 young people had covered more than 5,300 miles of highway to collect the trash.

CATTLE FEEDERS HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL

Feedlot operators and other cattle feeders are urged to register for the 15th annual Alberta Cattle Feeder's Feedlot School being held next month in Westlock, a community north of Edmonton. Managers and other feedlot personnel from across Western Canada are invited to the two-day workshop to be held at the Westlock Inn, June 18 and 19. Included on the agenda are talks on selecting desirable feeder types, formulating better induction strategy, countering calf problems, feed truck maintenance, personnel and customer relations and common sense horse care. Speakers include feedlot operators, university and college specialists, and commercial representatives. As part of the program there will be practical demonstrations as well as tours of feedlot facilities. For more information contact the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Assocation at 250-2509.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Two new $100 scholarships, have been made available to 4-H members in Alberta. Ceres International Women's Fraternity is sponsoring one scholarship for any 4-H girl entering the University of Alberta showing an interest in agriculture or rural life. Also available is a scholarship offered by the Farmhouse International Fraternity. It is being offered to young men entering the University of Alberta with an interest in agriculture and scholastic skills. For more information contact Anita Styba at 4-H headquarters in Edmonton at 422-4H4H.

(Cont'd)

UNIVERSITY PLANS FEEDERS' DAY

Hog producers looking for the latest information on swine research are invited to the University of Alberta's Feeder Day, June 12. The program gets underway at 11 a.m. with a tour of the new Swine Research Centre at the university research farm at 115 Street and 61 Avenue in Edmonton. The centre will be officially opened at noon. After lunch, workshop sessions will cover feed evaluation in pigs, the use of young boars in pork production, hormone responses in pigs, and results of current swine research at the university. The day wraps up with an evening barbecue. For more information contact the department of animal science at 432-2343.

FOOD SAMPLES UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Alberta Agriculture's food testing laboratories performed nearly two million tests on food samples, according to the department's annual report. The 1986 workload summary, shows the food labs in Edmonton and Airdrie performed 1,972,609 tests on 670,929 samples of foods, food ingredients and various other agriculture commodities. The labs which operate under the food laboratory services branch carry out programs to improve quality, safety and nutritional value of Alberta's food, food ingredients, and agricultural production at the producer, processor exporter and consumer levels. The labs provide analytical and advisory sevices of a highly technical nature to all sectors of the food industry. Included in the total number of samples were 618,666 raw milk samples sent to the central milk testing lab; 37,870 samples of milk and cream; 3,633 samples of ice cream; 2,298 samples of cheese; 1,900 samples of meats and samples from a range of other commodities including, water, honey, eggs, vegetables, wild fish and meat and cereal products and forages.

(Cont'd)

4-H MEMBERS PLAN INDIANA VISIT

Two Alberta 4-H delegates from Vulcan and Bon Accord will be off to Indiana in June as part of an exchange program. Ben Graham of Vulcan and Kim Shenfield of Bon Accord will join Indiana 4-H members for the State 4-H Junior Leader Program and the State 4-H "Round Up" at Purdue University in Lafayette. The two conferences run from June 14 to 22. The first conference will focus on personal development topics such as leadership, relationships and communication skills. The Round Up program deals with career choices and stresses 4-H involvement. Graham and Shenfield were named Alberta delegates at the recent Alberta 4-H Selections program. Their trips are sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

N.W.T. TOUR PLANNED

Ten senior Alberta 4-H members will learn about agriculture in the North West Territories during a 12-day tour of the northern region this summer. The 10, who were picked during the recent 4-H Selections program will travel through northern Alberta to Yellowknife gaining an appreciation of agricultural practices, cultures and lifestyles along the way. The group will visit agricultural processing and production facilities and idenfity Alberta products which are available in the N.W.T. The tour is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture. Among those participating are Annette Boelman of Westlock; Gail Cunningham of Kelsey; Valerie Differenz of Bruderheim; Stacey Johnson of Rimbey; Monica Kirtley of Stettler; Jack Marshall of Delia; Brenda Polowy and Laurie Zayac of Derwent; Stephen Van Meer of Onoway and Loren Yaremchuk of Myrnam.

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AGRI-NEWS

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For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 1, 1987
For immediate release

Market appeals to sheep producers

Although a few ups and downs are expected this year, Alberta sheep producers continue to show confidence in the industry, according to an Alberta Agriculture survey.

The majority of the more than 600 sheep producers who responded to the fourth annual production survey say they plan to expand their operations this year.

Michael Adam, livestock statistician with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton says most producers are responding to the strong market.

"Fat lamb prices remained strong in 1986 following record prices in 1985," he says. "Lamb prices during the first two months of 1987 were subtantially higher than the corresponding period in 1986. Even if these levels are not sustained through the balance of this year, prices should remain attractive enough to spur production."

The annual sheep survey was launched in 1984 to provide farmers with a production forecast for the year. Because lamb production is seasonal it was felt the survey would provide a picture of the year-round distribution of fat lamb supplies. This would allow producers to plan their production and marketing programs and avoid glut supply periods.

The survey predicts that even though individual farms will be selling fewer fat lambs this year, there will still be a net five per cent increase in the total number of fat lambs marketed compared to 1986. This means more farms will be selling fat lambs.

Other highlights from the questionnaire show the average flock size in Alberta declined by seven per cent this year. The average sheep farm in Alberta now has 150 head compared to 162 head in 1986.

Although the flock size is down slightly, the average number of ewes and ewe lambs per farm is virtually unchanged from last year at about 123 head.

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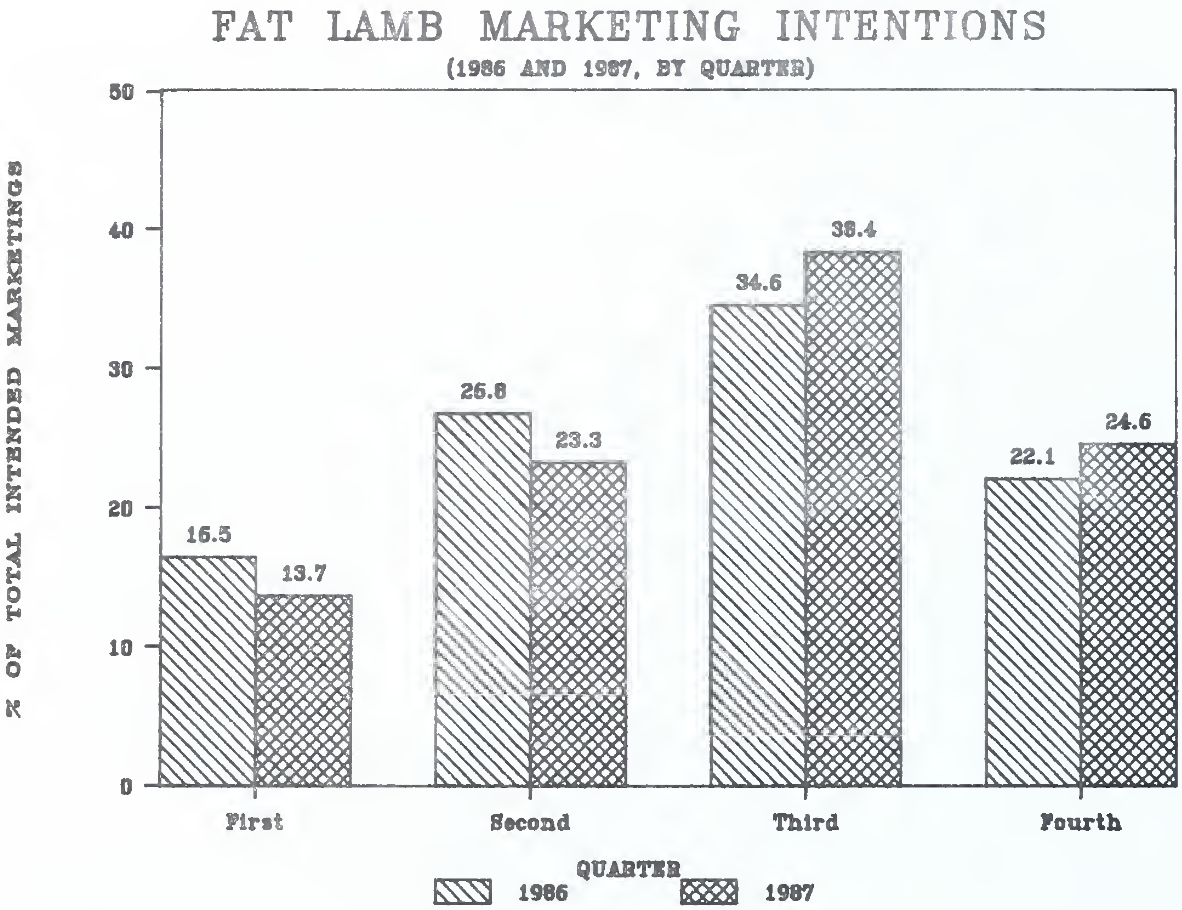

While the Edmonton Stockyards and Lambco continue to be the major buyers of Alberta lambs, farm gate sales also are strong, says the survey.

Adam says figures indicate about 20 per cent of the lambs sold in Alberta are sold directly by the farmer to consumers for the local "freezer" market.

The statistician says the farm gate sales have remained steady in the last four years. He noted that smaller sheep farmers tend to sell more to local markets than the larger operations.

(Cont'd)

Figures indicate there will be a dramatic increase in the number of feeder lambs sold this year.

"The number of feeder lambs to be marketed this year will surpass 1986 marketings if producers abide by their intentions," says Adam. The survey results indicated an increase in intentions of 72 per cent over 1986."

For more information on the survey contact Michael Adam at the Alberta Agriculture Statistics Branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6 or phone 427-4011.

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Contact: Michael Adam
427-4011

June 1, 1987
For immediate release

Leave the firewood behind

Campers and other tourists heading to or through Alberta should leave their firewood at the border, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist concerned about the spread of Dutch Elm Disease.

Dr. Ken Mallett says although people may be well intentioned, a load of diseased firewood accidentally brought into Alberta could touch off a serious infestation of the fungus which has wiped out elm tree populations in many parts of North America.

Mallett, a plant pathologist with the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, says so far Alberta has avoided the disease but preventive measures are still needed.

"Dutch Elm Disease is a devastating disease of American elm trees," says Mallett, a specialist in post-harvest crop diseases. "It has killed many elms throughout North America, except in a few areas, such as Alberta, where it has not yet been found."

Mallett says along with not bringing firewood into the province, people should also make sure the elms in their yards are kept in good health. He says the fungus prefers trees that are in weak condition.

The disease is caused by a fungus, (Ceratocystis ulmi) which can grow quickly inside an elm tree, blocking the water-conducting cells and causing it to wilt and eventually die, says Mallet.

The fungus is spread to elm trees by the elm bark beetle. Because the beetles feed on elms that are dead or dying from the disease, they may be found in or on elm firewood.

Beetles carrying the fungus can feed on elm trees that are poorly maintained or stressed and introduce the fungus and the disease to these trees.

(Cont'd)

"It is important that elm firewood not be brought into Alberta from elsewhere, as it could be harboring the beetles that carry the Dutch Elm Disease fungus," says Mallett. "If you are carrying firewood across the Canada/United States border, leave it with Canada Customs for safe disposal.

"If you have been travelling in Canada and are carrying firewood, burn or bury it before entering Alberta. It is unsafe to store elm wood, as it may be infested with the elm bark beetles which could emerge and attack elm trees in your neighborhood or farmstead."

Mallett says it is important to keep elm trees well maintained and vigorous. Dead branches and trees should be removed and burned. Provide adequate water and soil fertility for the trees.

For further information on pruning practices, contact an Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist or horticultural extension advisor.

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Contact: Dr. Ken Mallett
362-3391

June 1, 1987
For immediate release

Read the fine print on machinery leases

It may seem simple enough lease a piece of farm machinery, but farmers can run into legal tangles if they have to get out of the deal early, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Garth Nickorick, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds, says farmers should understand their rights and obligations before they sign a contract with the local implement dealer.

Nickorick says one common problem involves a farmer wanting to get out of a lease agreement before the end of the term. He describes the following example.

Question: Last year to save a few dollars, I leased a 150 horsepower tractor with an option to purchase it after the five year lease was up. It looked like a good deal but now I can't afford to keep it. I tried to take it back to the dealer but he said I still had to make the next four annual payments anyway. What's going on? Do I really have to pay?

Answer: Leasing machinery is advocated in many cases and rightly so. It can be an economical alternative to ownership. What sometimes is not clearly stated or understood is the legal twist which may apply to any lease. Depending on the fine print on the lease contract the above farmer may still be on the hook.

Nickorick says farmers should first realize there are two types of leases. One is a straightforward operating lease which has no option-to-purchase in the original contract. The second is the financial lease.

The financial lease has the option-to-purchase clause. This means the farmer can buy the leased unit at the end of the lease with a buyout price stated on the original lease contract. It is similar to a loan.

Each lease type has its own fine print and corresponding legal and tax implications, says Nickorick.

(Cont'd)

"Recall the old saying 'seize or sue' to get whatever is owed when payments are not made on time," says the economist. "While this may apply to loans, it may not apply to leases. Some lease contracts allow 'seize and sue'. Not being able to pay on time is not as simple as taking it back to the dealer and cancelling the obligation. After all there was a deal made to pay back all the money owed."

The contract signed on most leases allows the leasing agent to go to the farm and take possession of the equipment in as little as five days after the date the payment was due.

This can be done without notice or any legal process since the title remains in the agent's name. The individual signing the contract agreed to these conditions.

Under usual bank loans secured by chattel mortgage or conditional sales contracts, there is a legal process that must be followed in order for the creditor to repossess a machine. This process can take one to four months depending on circumstances.

"Operating leases do not follow this same path," he says. "They may be enforced without receiving court authority for seizure. However, financial leases, those with an option-to-purchase included, may be handled in a similar way to bank loans or conditional sales contracts. They may require court authority to enforce the seizure."

Once the lease is in default, there are several options available to leasing agents trying to get their money back. These include:

1. Leave the machine on the farm and SUE for all the remaining lease payments.
2. Take the tractor back to the lot for sale and call it square.
3. SEIZE - take the machine back to the lot for sale. If the sale proceeds do not cover all the future lease payments, SUE the farmer for the difference plus penalties plus the costs of legal and administration costs.

(Cont'd)

Read the fine print on machinery leases (cont'd)

In some cases the leasing agent may also sue for lost tax advantages that the manufacturer has not been able to use since the lease was terminated early.

"Individual farmer and dealer situations will have a lot to say about which option is pursued and with how much vigor," says Nickorick. "Check the fine print."

For further information contact Nickorick, Farm Management Economist, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, (403) 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

June 1, 1987
For immediate release

Cropland rental rates down nearly 25 per cent

As expected, poor grain markets are having an impact on both the value and term of cropland rental agreements, says an Alberta Agriculture survey.

The province-wide survey shows the value of rental rates dropped by as much as to 24 per cent compared to 1986. The survey also showed that more landlords and tennants are opting for shorter rental terms.

"Rental rates dropped 21 to 24 per cent from last year's levels," says Garth Nickorick, a farm managment economist with the department. "This is in line with prior estimates. The decline represents a $4 to $10 per acre lower return to landlords on the cash rental basis. The final outcome of returns under the crop share agreements are yet to be determined."

The exception to the provincial trend is in the Edmonton - Redwater - Barrhead area where rates dropped about five per cent. However, Nickorick says a review of the records shows this area made a large adjustment in rates last year.

"In addition to the rate changes, changes to the terms of many agreements have been made," he says. "Crop share and cash agreements have moved dramatically from long term deals to those of one year term."

About 57 per cent of cropshare arrangements are for one year - an increase of 270 per cent over 1985 levels. Three-year terms make up 23 per cent of the deals - seven per cent lower than the four-year average. Cash rental agreements make up 49 per cent of the one-year terms. They represented 33 per cent in 1985.

Three-year cash deals are down to 17 per cent from the 1985 level of 26 per cent. These changes reflect the current economic difficulty and lack of willingness on the part of landlords and renters to commit themselves to long term contracts, says the economist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

The split between cash rentals and crop share has seen a seven per cent swing toward cropshare, making a 50:50 ratio between these types of agreements.

(Cont'd)

Cropland rental rates down nearly 25 per cent (cont'd)

The survey shows about half of the landlords involved in 1/3:2/3 or 1/2:1/2 crop share agreements are contributing to the cost of fertilizer, herbicide and insecticide, depending on the share of the crop received. This practice is considered a benefit of both parties.

Those operating under a 1/4:3/4 crop share generally are not participating in the operating expenses, says the survey.

"The traditional one-third cropshare split remains the most common arrangement (72 per cent) throughout the province," says Nickorick. "However, in the Grande Prairie - Peace River region 1/4:3/4 splits make up 54 per cent of all agreements with 1/3:2/3 splits making up 39 per cent."

The most common rates reported by the regions are as follows: Lethbridge - Vulcan - Medicine Hat dryland $12 to $26 per acre, irrigated grain $30 to $60 per acre; Calgary - Olds - Hanna $20 to $35 per acre; Red Deer - Wetaskiwin - Stettler $16 to $30 per acre; Wainwright - Vegreville - St. Paul - $15 to $30 per acre; Leduc - Redwater - Barrhead $15 to $30 per acre; Grande Prairie - Peace River - $12 to $20 per acre.

The survey was conducted by Maureen Whitlock, a statistician with the department's statistics branch in Edmonton.

For further information and a copy of the survey, contact Nickorick, at the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0, or phone 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

June 1, 1987
For immediate release

Cattle prices reflected in pasture rates

Pasture rental rates in Alberta haven't changed much from last year, reflecting continued confidence in the livestock industry, says an Alberta Agriculture survey.

The survey shows the cost of renting pasture is unchanged or slightly higher than a year ago, says Garth Nickorick, a farm management economist with the department in Olds.

Results from the southern third of the province show a range of $9 to $15 per cow/calf pair per month. The average in this area is $12 per pair per month.

Central Alberta rates are $9 to $10 range per cow/calf pair per month. Northern rates average $6 per pair per month.

These rates apply to improved pasture as well as native grass.

Pasture rates for horses range from $20 to $30 per head per month.

Provincial grazing reserves in the south are charging $9.75 to $12.20 per animal unit month (AUM). Central grazing reserves are charging $8.75 per AUM. Northern leases are charging $7.27 per AUM.

Sheep pasture rates are charging $1.05 per ewe/lamb pair per month. Central rates are $1.74 per pair per month. Southern rates are $1.62 per pair per month.

"As usual, pastures with good grass and good water rent at the higher end of the scale," says Nickorick.

For further information and a copy of the above survey contact Garth Nickorick, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or phone 556-4247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

June 1, 1987
For immediate release

Capital gains exemption needs to be understood

The $500,000 capital gains exemption available to farmers isn't the answer to everyone's dreams and doesn't benefit everyone in every situation, but it is an option to be considered, says a farm management specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Merle Good, an agricultural economist with the farm business management branch in Olds, says the $500,000 exemption introduced by Revenue Canada in 1985 is relatively complex. He suggests farmers look at the details thoroughly before selling property.

"During the past year it has become apparent that many farmers have considered using their $500,000 lifetime capital gains exemption, either through a sale of their properties to a third party or through an inter-generational transfer," says Good. "Since the introduction of the capital gains exemption on May 23, 1985, many taxpayers are unaware of the complexities and the opportunities that surround this exemption.

Good says it is important to realize the $500,000 capital gains exemption is not available to farm corporations, and that minimum tax can be triggered upon a sale of land regardless of the $500,000 exemption.

The specialist says the best way to explain the $500,000 capital gains exemption is through questions and answers.

1. When does the Alternative Minimum Tax become applicable on a sale of eligible farm property?

   The Alternative Minimum Tax is simply a flat tax (about 25 per cent) that is applied to one-half of the capital gain. Since there is a $40,000 minimum tax exemption (similar to a personal exemption) a farmer would have to realize in most instances a capital gain that would exceed $80,000. This equates to a $40,000 taxable capital gain which is offset by the $40,000 minimum tax exemption.

(Cont'd)

Capital gains exemption needs to be understood (cont'd)

2. Since $40,000 of taxable capital gain can be realized in a single taxation year without triggering minimum tax, is it advisable to sell property under an agreement for sale or a mortgage?

   Farmers are allowed to claim the capital gains exemption in conjunction with a tax strategy called capital gains reserve. In other words, a farmer can sell his property over a period of time, realize a capital gain, and spread out the capital gain to minimize the effect of the minimum tax.
   For example, if a sale triggers a capital gain of $300,000 and the sale proceeds are to be received over a period of five years, the capital gain triggered in each year would be $60,000 (1/5 x 300,000) which would probably be exempt from Minimum Tax.

3. Since a family farm corporation does not qualify for the capital gains exemption, is there any way that property can be withdrawn from a corporation on a tax free or deferred basis, re-registered in the names of the shareholders and then sold to take advantage of the capital gains exemption?

   It appears Revenue Canada has envisioned this type of property sale and throughout the Income Tax Act there are various sections that prevent a shareholder from withdrawing property from a corporation except at fair market value. The capital gain will be triggered in the hands of the corporation and therefore no benefit can be obtained in the short term by using such a strategy.
   However, if the property is at a high adjusted cost base, or V-day value relative to the Fair Market Value it may be advantageous to withdraw the land from your corporation, thus triggering little or no capital gain in order to have the land owned by the individuals. There is a strong lobby group asking for the $500,000 Exemption to be extended to FARM CORPORATIONS, in order to bring equality to corporate and non-corporate farmers.

(Cont'd)

Capital gains exemption needs to be understood (cont'd)

4. I have heard that in order to take advantage of the $500,000 capital gains exemption, it may be feasible for me to sell my land to a company at fair market value, claim the $500,000 capital gains exemption personally, hold the property in the corporation for a few years and assuming land values do not increase, withdraw the land from the corporation. This would increase the adjusted cost base of the land without any adverse tax consequences.

   This strategy is possible, except that on a sale of property from a shareholder to his corporation there is no allowance for the capital gains reserve. In other words, a farmer would not be able to sell his entire landbase to his company over time in order not to trigger minimum tax.
   This area is very complex and it is therefore advised that the advice of a qualified accountant be sought as the formation of a company has other major consequences besides tax.

5. As my property is owned by a farm corporation, are there any tax advantages to a company that should be sought or taken advantage of.

   Yes, you have until the end of 1987 to defer tax on the transfer of shares to a child under the $200,000 small business corporate rollover. This rollover is a little different from the family farm property rollover. The transfer of the shares to a child can take place at fair market value with no capital gain being triggered.

   For example, assume a farmer has 1,000 common shares with a fair market value of $200,000 and a cost base of NIL. These shares could be transferred to a child for $200,000 cash and the son's adjusted cost base of the shares will still remain at NIL.

(Cont'd)

This deferral is to be eliminated at the end of this year, as the phase-in allowance for the capital gains exemption for 1988 will be $200,000. It is important to remember that if the $200,000 small business corporate rollover is used, the capital gains exemption is not eroded.

6. I have recently been widowed and now wish to sell this property that I inherited from my husband and wonder if I qualify for the immediate $500,000 capital gains exemption?

   The answer depends on whether the property is presently being farmed or was ever farmed for at least five years, by your spouse, your child or a corporation or a partnership of yours or your child's. If any of these members are actually farming the land or farmed the land for a period of five years, then your property qualifies for the immediate $500,000 capital gains exemption.

7. What estate planning opportunities exist with the $500,000 capital gains exemption as neither I or my spouse is interested in selling the land outside the family?

   The answers to this question vary tremendously, however, the following scenarios illustrate how the capital gains exemption can be utilized.

   a) Husband To Wife Transfers.
   If your family is young and yet you wish to take the advantage of the capital gains exemption, the Income Tax Act does not presently restrict a spouse from selling property to his/her spouse. If so elected the transfer value can take place at fair market value, thus probably triggering a capital gain. There are certain rules, however, regarding transfers to spouses and minor children that must be understood. These rules are termed the "income attribution rules".

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Specifically the act states that if property is transferred to a spouse or minor child, the income earned from the property and/or any future capital gains incurred will be taxable in the transferor's hands, even though the recipient of the property is legally entitled to the income earnings or sale proceeds. The income attribution rules are applied in order to prevent "income splitting" amongst family members.

To override the rules of "income attribution" the property must be used in an active business by the recipient or acquired by the recipient at fair market value, carrying commercial interest rates on any debt with the interest paid within 30 days after year-end.

A spouse, in most instances, would not be able to afford to pay the husband the funds required to repay the loan at this interest rate. It is therefore, common to have the sale take place at no interest and have the attribution rules apply. The result is that if the land is ever sold by the spouse who received the property, any capital gain incurred in the future sale will be attributed back and taxed in the original spouse's hands. This strategy is still very useful, however, as the Adusted Cost Base (ACB) has been increased to the present fair market value and if the $500,000 capital gains exemption is ever eliminated, at least this level of capital gain has been sheltered. Furthermore, if this property was ever to be transferred to a child over 18 years old under the family farm rollover, no capital gain or attribution is triggered, and thus a potential deferral of tax exists for many years.

(Cont'd)

b) How about land transfers to a child?

In my view instead of gifting property under the family farm rollover provision, it would be advisable to sell property to a child at fair market value with little or no interest over a term of years. The result would be a capital gain and, properly structured over a number of years, the alternative minimum tax would be minimized or eliminated. The positive points of this type of sale are as follows:

i) The parents will either have a first mortgage or hold title under an agreement for sale for a sum that is equal to fair market value. If the recipient child ever decides to sell the property, then of course the large proportion of the value of the property is owed in the form of debt to the parent.

ii) If the child ever decides to mortgage the property, the parents would have a prior charge equal to the fair market value of the property, therefore it would take a number of years before any lender could get involved in lending money on the land as little equity is in the child's hands.

iii) The payments are all based on return of capital and thus all payments received would be treated as a capital gain. With the exemption and no minimum tax applying on a properly structured sale, all the proceeds received by the parents would be tax free, with the child however receiving no deduction.

(Cont'd)

iv) The child has an increased adjusted cost base of the property as the purchase has taken place at fair market value. This will be advantageous if the property is subsequently sold or transferred to his children.

v) A type of indexed pension plan can be structured where after five years the interest rate on the outstanding balance can be raised to 2 or 3 percentage points. This increases the payments due over time to cover inflation.

A certain interest ceiling should be agreed to otherwise the child could not afford to buy the property at the higher annual payments.

Perhaps the best illustration of this sale technique to children is where a farmer has been receiving a crop share rental on his property which was "qualified farm property" by definition. He decides to transfer via a sale at fair market value a quarter section to each of his three children, who in return would then sign the lease agreement with the original renter. The rental payments would go to the children and be taxed in their hands. The sale agreement was structured so that the payments on the land were approximately equal to the cash rent received.

(Cont'd)

> The end result of course, is the parents receive the funds on a tax free basis, as rent is being converted to land payments. The parents feel quite comfortable that their retirement is secure as they retain a life interest in the home quarter and have placed a large mortgage equal to fair market value on each of the three one-quarter sections. If further protection is required, the parents who are selling the property can ask for a Right of First Refusal.

"The capital gains exemption is still a very important tax exemption that should be looked at very closely when reviewing your farm estate plans or a potential sale of your property," says Good. "The tax reform White Paper that to be released June 18, will undoubtedly deal with the exemption, however, no one is party to the federal finance minister's decision of whether to eliminate, modify, change or reduce the capital gains exemption.

"Individual taxpayers will have to decide if they should or should not structure their farm business and ownership in order to take advantage of the capital gains exemption in the immediate future."

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Contact: Merle Good
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June 1, 1987
For immediate release

A day for pork producers

Discussion of feed evaluation for pigs, raising young boars for slaughter and other research work will be part of the program June 12, as the University of Alberta sponsors its annual Feeders' Day for pork producers.

Several specialists are scheduled to speak to producers during the seminar at the university research farm at 115 Street and 61 Avenue in Edmonton.

Dr. Willem Sauer, a specialist in swine nutrition at the U of A will talk about feed evaluation for pigs.

This presentation will deal with ways to determine the nutritive value of feedstuffs, including ways to measure digestibility of energy, protein and amino acids.

Also as part of the program, Dr. Mike Price, a livestock and meat production specialist with the university, will talk about using young boars in pork production.

Price will described how several countries are now using boars as slaughter animals. Although this has not been a tradition in Canada, he says boars have replaced barrows as the standard slaughter animal in many nations. He will described the advantages and disadvantages of using boars.

Dr. Bob Christopherson a specialist in animal physiology at the university will discuss how hormones affect growth in pigs.

Frank Aherne, assistant professor of swine production will speak to the group on the range of swine research projects undertaken by the university.

Feeders' Day gets underway at 11 a.m. with a tour of the new Swine Research Centre, followed by the official opening of the centre, lunch and the seminar session beginning at 2 p.m. For more information on the program phone 432-2343.

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Contact: Frank Aherne
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June 1, 1987
For immediate release

Farmers develop own fertilizer test

While there is a world of information out there on how a farmer should fertilize a crop, the most reliable information for specific conditions may be obtained by running your own test strips in the field.

An Alberta Agriculture farm management economist says a relatively simple and inexpensive method of testing may be the best way of finding out what is the most practical fertilizer rate for your farm.

"It seems almost impossible that there is a lack of information on crop response to fertilizer application on the farmers' own fields," says Craig Edwards, with the farm business management branch in Olds.

"Soil, fertilizer and plant specialists have been successful in helping farmers learn more productive techniques in using fertilizer. Manufacturers have improved formulations and local sales agents have better soil testing, mixing, delivery and application facilities than ever before. Fertilizer application recommendations are available from soil labs and fertilizer sales agencies, based on many hundreds of experimental demonstration plots.

"However, the farmers are still left with the burning question of how relevant this information is for their particular farm and situation."

Edwards says the big question is still, What yield response will I get for different crops with different levels of fertilizer application on my own farm under my conditions?

"Only a few farmers can answer this question for their own farms because of the difficulties involved with seeding, harvesting and weighing fertilizer test strips," he says "It uses valuable time when time is scarce. Most farmers have to base their fertilizer decisions on rules-of-thumb obtained from sources outside the farm fences instead of field tests of yields because it takes time to do the work required to design and complete on-farm yield tests.

"Very few farmers have decided to devote their time and talents to determining what their crop responses are to different fertilizer application levels."

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Edwards says most demonstration plots developed by fertilizer companies and government agencies are limited in size and location and are not designed to answer the farmers' question even when such plots are located in the farmer's field.

He says they provide useful information to the sponsoring organizations over the years which eventually is useful to farmers, but they do not provide much immediate help for economic decision making.

Eldon Berg, field agronomist with Cominco Ltd. in Calgary, suggests farmers conduct strip tests on selected areas within a big field to measure yields which should be typical of fertilizer response over a large area. This data can be used for making economic decisions.

There are no publications available explaining how to develop a strip test useful to a farmer, but two farmers working together have shared their experience on strip testing with me.

Gunnar Mortensen and Alf Petersen, who farm about 2,000 acres southeast of Drumheller, have completed two years of strip testing that takes a minimum of equipment, time and trouble but has given satisfactory results.

Petersen is known as the first extension specialist of farm management in Alberta. He is professor emeritus, department of rural economy, University of Alberta. He has been interested in the application of farm management principles for 40 years.

Although he always wanted to conduct fertilizer trial tests, he was never able to take the time to do it until 1985 when work with Mortensen made it possible, says Edwards.

The farmers set out a list of four objectives:

1. Use farmers land, equipment and skills.
2. Minimize the time and effort required to plant, identify and measure yields of test strips.
3. Establish fertilizer response data which are reasonably accurate, and of perceived relevance to the farmer cooperator.
4. Provide data to verify and improve the accuracy of soil test recommendations.

(Cont'd)

Using two crops, malting barley on fallow and wheat on wheat stubble, the test work showed the farmers what yields and rates of return they could expect from different levels of fertilizer application.

Edwards says although two years of tests cannot provide conclusive results it is the beginning of developing a record of what different rates of fertilizer application will do under different growing conditions.

"One thing this preliminary work does show is that the law of diminishing returns does come into affect," he says. "Applying more and more fertilizer, when grain prices are low does not mean that you are going to get more and more yield, or a greater return for the amount of investment.

"This type of testing can provide farmers with some measure of that cut-off point. It can help them determine if they put this amount of fertilizer on a crop, this is the return they can expect."

Petersen and Mortenson expect to do more tests in the future to build a history of information from their farms.

"They do not expect to find an 'answer' to their question, just more reliable information for decision making," says Edwards.

For more information on the fertilizer testing system contact Edwards at the farm business management branch in Olds at, 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

June 1, 1987
For immediate release

A lesson on how the test was run

The work of two south-cental Alberta farmers is providing them with basic information on what kinds of yields and returns they can expect from different rates of fertilizer application.

Gunnar Mortensen and Alf Petersen, who farm about 2,000 acres southeast of Drumheller, have completed two years of strip testing with various rates of fertilizer that takes a minimum of equipment, time and trouble but has given satisfactory results, says an economist with Alberta Agriculture.

Craig Edwards, with the farm business management branch in Olds, says the two farmers realized there was all kinds of general information available on fertilizer, but no one had developed an easy system for farmers to determine for themselves what rate of fertilizer application provided optimum return.

Mortensen and Petersen wanted to come up with a system that would provide a record of the yield they could expect, for their farms, under different growing conditions and from different rates of fertilizer application.

To develop a system the farmers set out a list of four objectives:

1. Use farmers land, equipment and skills.
2. Minimize the time and effort required to plant, identify and measure yields of test strips.
3. Establish fertilizer response data which are reasonably accurate, and of perceived relevance to the farmer cooperator.
4. Provide data to verify and improve the accuracy of soil test recommendations.

Methods Used in the Field

In 1985 they strip tested malting barley on land that was summerfallowed in 1984 and also tested wheat grown on wheat stubble. They used a 28-foot air seeder with banding knives to apply zero fertilizer on one strip, recommended amount of fertilizer (150 pounds of 28-16-0-7) on the second strip, twice the recommended amount on a third strip and three times the recommended amount on the fourth strip.

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The malting barley was seeded with a hoe drill and the wheat seeded with a disker.

The strips were marked by flags for accuracy of swathing with an 18-foot swather. For the test strip, they swathed 18 feet in the centre of the 28-foot fertilizer band, leaving five feet unswathed on each side of the strip. These were swathed later but not included in the test.

The test strips were about one-half mile long across a square quarter section of 160 acres, but the tests were started about 75 feet from the border to minimize effects of snow drifts, top soil drifting for years past, grasshoppers, and other factors. An accurate measure of the distance travelled for the test (length of strip) was taken by a wheel with handlebars from an old bike fitted with a bale counter.

When the strips were combined, the grain was augered into a 4'x4'x4' bottomless box placed in the 350 bushel capacity grain box of the farm truck, and measured to find the volume and convert to yield per acre. The measuring box level full held about 50 bushels by volume.

The grain in the partially filled box was levelled and measured in inches, calculated into cubic feet and bushels then estimated from the total cubic feet. A sample of grain was taken of each test to verify the weight per bushel on scales at the grain elevator.

The 1985 test results are as follows.

Malting Barley on Fallow
Using (28-16-0-7) as recommended

Application	Yield/Acre* (bu)	Added Yield (bu/acre)	Cost of Added Fert. MC	Value of Added Grain @ $3.50/bu
No Fert.	69			
		15	$20 (150 lb.)	$52.50
150 lb.	84			
		10	$20	$35.00
300 lb.	94			
		-13	$20	-$45.50
450 lb.	81			

Note: A unit of "added fertilizer" = 150 pounds = $20

(Cont'd)

A lesson how the test was run (cont'd)

Wheat on Wheat Stubble
Using (28-16-0-7) as recommended

Application	Yield/Acre* (bu)	Added Yield (bu/acre)	Cost of Added Fert.	Value of Added Grain at $4/bu
No Fert.	12.8			
		13.2	$22	$52.80
165 lb.	26			
		3.5	$22	$14.00
330 lb.	29.5			
		2.5	$22	$10.00
495 lb.	32			

Note: A unit of "added fertilizer" = 165 pounds = $22

* To check for differences in weight of grain from the respective test strips, small samples were weighed at the local elevator. Although there was almost no difference in bushel weight, the grain from the nonfertilized strips appears to be approximately a pound per bushel lighter than from the other strips.

For the barley, there was a 15 bushel per acre increase for the first 150 pounds of fertilizer, 10 for the second unit and a decrease of 13 bushels per acre for the third unit. With the grain at $3.50 per bushel it would have paid to double the amount of fertilizer application (a $35 return of barley for a $20 application of fertilizer).

For the wheat on wheat stubble, only the first unit of fertilizer (165 pounds per acre) paid for itself at $4 bushel, but the second unit did not pay for itself with an increase of only 3.5 bushels per acre. Maybe a half unit would have paid but it was not tested.

In 1986 Petersen and Mortensen made another test using 80 pound increments of the fertilizer formulation recommended for them to apply at 160 pounds per acre on wheat on stubble.

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A lesson on how the test was run (cont'd)

The results for the seven test strips are as follows:

Application Rate In lb/ac	Yield In Bushels Per Acre	Added Yield in Bushels Per Acre	Cost of Added Fertilizer	$ Value of Added Yield at			
				$3	$2	$4	$5
0	23						
		11	9	33	22	44	55
80	34						
		3	9	9	6	12	15
160	37						
		3	9	9	6	12	15
240	40						
		3	9	9	6	12	15
320	43						
		1	9	3	2	4	5
400	44						
		1	9	3	2	4	5
480	45						

Results of the tests show that the first 80 pound increment would have returned $33 for a $9 investment and the second fertilizer unit would just pay for itself at a wheat price of $3 per bushel. There was no extra profit from adding the second increment as the investment of $9 per acre only paid back $9 per acre.

The cost of using 160 pounds per acre instead of 80 pound per acre on 300 acres was 300 x $9 = $2,700 being invested with no return above cost.

Value of Added Yield at Different Prices

At $2 per bushel, the 11 bushels of added yield would be worth $22 for the first increment of 80 pounds of fertilizer costing $9 per acre. It would have cost $3 per acre ($9-$6) to use the second increment of fertilizer because it cost $9 to apply and returned only $6.

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A lesson on how the test was run (cont'd)

"At $4 per bushel of wheat it would have been profitable to use four increments of fertilizer (320 lb), and likewise for wheat at $5 per bushel," says Edwards. "The value added analysis shows clearly that when prices are high, it pays to fertilize heavily and when prices are low, it pays to cut back on the use of fertilizer.

"Now that they have some fertilizer test data, how can they make use of it? Obviously, they are not going to use these results from two not very typical years as their only information to decide how much fertilizer to use in 1987, but these results will certainly influence their decisions."

For more information on fertilizer testing contact Craig Edwards the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
(403) 556-4248

June 1, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

BEEF PRICES TO REMAIN STRONG

Slaughter prices for Canadian and Alberta beef are expected to remain good through 1987, but the price ceiling may be determined by the consumer. An Alberta Agriculture market economist says with retail prices increasing there may be a limit to how much the home barbecuer will spend for beef. Marilyn Johnson in a quarterly report on beef markets says, "although the market is entering the high demand cook-out season, it is uncertain if consumers will accept retail prices that reflect the wholesale and fed cattle prices currently being set." The specialist says the slaughter price potential will also be curbed by increased supplies of pork and poultry. Beef prices remain strong because of reduced slaughter cattle numbers. More producers are holding onto cows and heifers so they can expand their breeding herds. Alberta beef output for the first quarter of 1987 was well down from a year ago, says Johnson. Slaughter output in the province was down seven per cent while the export of slaughter cattle was down 25 per cent. For more information on the quarterly report contact Johnson at 427-5376.

4-H ALUMNI INVITED TO REUNION

Past and present Alberta 4-H staff members are invited to register for a four-day camping reunion on the July 31 weekend at the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake. The event spearheaded by 4-H headquarters staffers, Mahlon Weir and Penny Wilkes, is open to employees as well as ex-regional 4-H specialists, headquarters and field support staff. Anyone interested is asked to phone, write or drop in to the 4-H headquarters in Edmonton. Contact Weir or Wilkes at 422-4H4H.

(Cont'd)

HORT WEEK PLANNED AT OLDS COLLEGE

Anyone interested in improving their horticultural skills for fun or profit should plan to participate in the 23rd annual Hort Week at Olds College. The July 27 - 31 event offers 22 courses running from one to five days in length. Some are for home gardeners wanting to improve their skills, while others sessions are for commercial growers and horticulturists. It's considered a horticultural extravaganza of workshops and seminars on everything from floral design and fruit judging to hobby greenhouses and gourmet mushroom culture. Sponsored by the Olds College Department of Extension Services, the courses range from $15 to $150 depending on length and material to be covered. Accommodations are extra. For a schedule of Hort Week workshops or for more information contact Cindy Turner at 556-8344.

PROVINCIAL 4-H RALLY IN JULY

Alberta 4-H members are reminded the 1987 provincial 4-H Rally will be held July 18 and 19 at the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake. Rally events will include celebration of the 10th anniversary of the 4-H Foundation of Alberta. Organizers say there is room at the centre for tents, campers, trailers and motorhomes. The Battle Lake centre is 50 kilometres west of Wetaskiwin on Highway 13. For more information contact Bob Coe, Alberta 4-H media production specialist at 422-4444 in Edmonton.

CHICKEN PRICES MAY BE HEN-PECKED

Although chicken prices held steady through the first quarter of 1987, an Alberta Agriculture specialist predicts prices may drop over the next six months. Al Dooley, an analyst with the market analysis branch in Edmonton, says increased production, greater supplies of other meats such as pork, and chicken brought in from other provinces could impact on prices paid here. In his quarterly look at the poultry and egg industry, Dooley says prices to producers could drop three to five per cent over the summer and fall. Alberta chicken production was estimated at 9.9 million kilograms during the first three months of 1987 - a 5.3 per cent increase over 1986. He says egg production was also up during the first quarter. Prices are expected to drop a couple cents over the summer and fall. For more information contact Dooley at 427-5382.

AGRI-NEWS

June 8, 1987

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Editor's Note

The following four articles about buying, wearing, and maintaining protective clothing and equipment when working with pesticides are timely as the season for use of agricultural chemicals begins.

It is hoped you will be able to use all or part of these articles over the next few weeks to remind farmers that protective gear is an important part of their work routine.

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Farmers must remember protective clothing

Alberta farmers should make sure they have protective clothing on their checklist when organizing materials and equipment needed to combat another season of crop pests.

A specialist with Alberta Agriculture says wearing protective clothing when handling chemicals is just as important to a farmer's health as making sure shields are in place around power take-off equipment.

Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist with the department in Edmonton, says there is nothing sissy about wearing the protective gear.

She says studies have shown that wearing recommended clothing and following chemical-use directions reduces the health risk to farmers.

"Insecticides, herbicides, fungicides - these are all poisons intended to kill some type of agricultural pest," she says. "They have a recognized role in today's agriculture.

"But no farmer should be out there handling and inhaling these substances without wearing the recommended protective clothing and equipment. Farmers know better than to work around hazardous machinery without shields and guards in place. Some of these chemicals can be just as dangerous."

Eggertson says her list of recommended protective clothing and equipment is basic. She says there are no frills or unnecessary items. They all serve to protect parts of the body which are at risk to pesticide exposure.

The specialist says protective clothing, whether it is regular or disposable material, should be considered as an additional layer that covers regular work clothes.

"Clothing acts as a barrier to prevent skin absorption of pesticides," says Eggertson. "And several layers of clothing provide better protection."

(Cont'd)

The provincial specialist notes there are three levels of toxicity among agricultural chemicals. Pesticides are packaged with a 'danger' label indicating they are highly toxic, a 'warning' lable indicating they are moderately toxic or a 'caution' label indicating they are slightly toxic.

"It is important to identify the level of toxicity of the chemical you are using and protect yourself accordingly," she says. "The degree of protection should increase with the toxicity of chemical used."

Basic protective clothing includes:
- long sleeved shirt
- full-length trousers
- coveralls
- neoprene or unlined rubber gloves
- neoprene overboots or long rubber boots
- wide-brimmed hard hat

Particularly when mixing or handling chemicals, Eggertson says farmers should wear a waterproof or neoprene bib apron. Protective head gear should include hard hat, goggles or face shield and a respirator. The amount of equipment required depends on the toxicity of the chemical.

The goggles protect eyes against pesticide vapors, dust and splashes, while the respirator prevents inhalation of dusts, powders and sprays into the lungs.

The respirator should cover both nose and mouth and contain a charcoal cartridge to filter spray particles.

The specialist says keep the respirator clean and replace the cartridge or entire respirator, if disposable, at the first sign of chemical odor.

Along with wearing the clothing and equipment, farmers also must make sure their gear is cleaned after each wearing. Eggertson says special washing procedures need to be followed to ensure the farmer isn't reusing contaminated clothing.

For more information on protective clothing and equipment contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist or write for the department publication, Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use, (Homedex 1353-90) available from The Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson - 427-2412

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Contaminated clothing needs special attention

Clothing contaminated with agriculture chemicals needs special attention in the wash, says an Alberta Agriculture spokesman.

Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist in Edmonton says care needs to be taken not only to get the chemical residue out, but to make sure the rest of the family isn't exposed to chemicals.

She says it is best for farmers to remove contaminated clothing and equipment outdoors. Along with cleaning the clothes, farmers should also remember to scrub themselves in the shower after working with chemicals and to put on a clean set of clothes.

Eggertson suggests the following checklist for the person handling contaminated clothing:

- handle soiled clothing with rubber gloves
- when applicable, remove pesticide granules from cuffs and pockets outdoors.
- discard any garment saturated with a full strength chemical concentrate.
- use disposable plastic garbage bags for temporary storage of pesticide-soiled clothes before washing.
- wash protective clothing after you finish spraying for the day.

When you wash and dry:

- wash pesticide-soiled clothing separately from regular family laundry.
- avoid overcrowding clothes in the washing machine.
- pre-treat presticide-soiled clothing with a laundry stain removal product intended for oil stains when an oil-base (emulisifiable) chemical formulation has been used.
- pre-rinse pesticide-soiled clothing on pre-soak cycle of automatic washer.
- use hot water setting and a full water level.
- use heavy duty detergent
- wash clothes two or three times.
- line dry clothes to prevent possible contamination of dryer and to increase the chemical breakdown of pesticide residues.
- after use, run machine through full cycle with hot water and detergent to rinse washer.
- wash hard hat, goggles, respirator (avoid getting charcoal filter wet, remove if possible) in hot soapy water daily.

(Cont'd)

Contaminated clothing needs special attention (cont'd)

Rubber gloves, rubber boots and waterproof apron should be washed daily with hot soapy water outside the house. Both the inside and outside of the gloves should be washed thoroughly.

Eggertson says try to limit clothing worn while handling pesticides for that use only.

For more information on protective clothing and equipment or the washing instructions contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist or write for the department publication, Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use, (Homedex 1353-90) available from The Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Avoid some types of clothing

While farmers are often reminded of what protective clothing and equipment they should wear when handling chemicals, there are a few items they should remember not to wear, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist says farmers should stay away from materials likely to absorb and retain pesticide residues.

The specialist says leading the list of clothing to avoid are cloth and leather gloves, leather shoes or sneakers, a baseball cap, and a wrist watch with a leather band.

She says these materials absorb chemicals and prolong exposure to the wearer.

For more information on protective clothing and equipment contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist or write for the department publication, Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use, (Homedex 1353-90) available from The Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Proper safety is affordable

While farmers don't have money to throw away these days, putting out a few dollars for clothing and equipment to protect against chemical exposure could be the best investment of their lives.

A specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton says even if farmers have to buy all clothing and equipment brand new, they can probably outfit themselves for little more than $100.

Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist with the department in Edmonton, says there is a wide price range of recommended clothing and equipment. And she says price is also affected by whether farmers use disposable or regular clothing.

Eggertson says the bottom line is that proper clothing and equipment will protect the farmer's health against the toxic effect of many of the insecticides, herbicides and fungicides used to combat agricultural pests.

She notes protective gear is to be considered an additional layer of clothing worn over regular work clothes.

Although prices vary, Eggertson provided a breakdown of average retail prices for head-to-toe protective clothing and equipment:

Hard hat $5; goggles or face shield $6; disposable pesticide respirator $30; disposable coveralls $10 to $12 or regular coveralls $30; full-length, heavy-duty protective apron $15 to $20; unlined rubber gloves $5 or neoprene gloves $13; and regular rubber boots $15, or steel toed boots $35 or neoprene overboots $42.

"If you take the bottom end of these prices you are looking at $86 in clothing and equipment, while on the top end it could cost $146," says the specialist. "Splitting the difference you could easily outfit yourself for about $115."

The specialist says kits being sold by Alberta 4-H members this year are a good value.

(Cont'd)

The package does not include all recommended clothing and equipment but it is a good start. For $30 producers get rubber gloves, a reinforced protective apron, safety goggles and a disposable respirator along with directions on how to use and maintain the supplies.

Provincial 4-H members are selling about 3,000 of the kits which are subsidized by Hoechst Canada Ltd.

Eggertson says regardless of whether producers support the 4-H members' fund raising project or go to the local farm supply outlet, the point is to get the recommended clothing and equipment and wear it.

To reinforce the message district home economists throughout Alberta will have displays at many fairs, shows and agricultural service board tours this summer based on the theme, "Suit Up for Safety".

The display provides information on protective clothing and equipment, with graphic examples of how farmers can become contaminated with common pesticide chemicals.

For more information on protective clothing contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist or write for the department publication, Protective Clothing for Pesticide Use, (Homedex 1353-90) available from The Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Fuel saving demonstrations begin this week

Many Alberta farmers could save about 10 per cent on fuel costs just by changing gears and reducing the throttle on their tractors when pulling lighter loads, says an energy specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

John Chang, an energy engineer with the department in Edmonton, says when the tractor has less than a full load using the proper gear, cutting back on engine rpms and making sure the tractor has proper weight or ballast are key points in getting good fuel efficiency.

To prove the theory, an especially-equipped tractor will be touring the northern half of Alberta this summer showing farmers how to save fuel. The tractor, with an on-board computer, will begin its round of field demonstrations in the Morinville-Barrhead area this week.

It will make 10 scheduled demonstrations in the Athabasca/Sangudo/Leduc area throughout June, before moving east to the Wainwright/Vermilion/ Lac La Biche area in July. Throughout August the tractor will be giving demonstrations in the Peace River region.

Farmers interested in seeing the demonstration should contact their district agriculturist for details.

"Many farmers already realize fuel efficiency can be affected by the way a tractor is operated," says Chang. "But this especially-equipped tractor puts it in writing. The computer provides a printout which shows farmers how different gears, different rpms and different ballast can affect fuel consumption.

"We estimate that by practising 'gear up-throttle down' to the fullest extent possible and by proper ballasting, Alberta farmers could reduce tractor fuel use by about 10 per cent."

The Tractor Fuel-Efficiency Demonstration, sponsored jointly by Alberta Agriculture and Olds College was launched in 1986 with a tour through southern Alberta.

Murray Green , a farm machinery engineer with the department in Airdrie who supervises the project, says northern Alberta farmers will have a chance to see fuel efficiency in operation this year.

(Cont'd)

The project involves putting an average farm tractor through the paces of routine field work, while the on-board computer monitors fuel use.

The unit being used for demonstrations is a two-wheel drive 1986 Case 2394 tractor, with 162 PTO horsepower. The demonstration also uses a 25-foot Case International chisel plough to put the load on the tractor.

As the unit works, the computer records fuel consumption and the load placed on the drawbar of the tractor. It notes factors such as the gear being used and speed travelled.

As the variables of engine speed and depth of tillage are changed, the computer will provide a comparison showing which operation gives the best fuel economy.

"We're trying to do actual farm work and show if you operate your tractor with a certain combination of factors, you'll probably get better fuel economy," says Green.

The specialists say farmers can improve fuel efficiency in their own tractors without having an on-board computer. Chang says the demonstration shows the concept of which factors affect fuel consumption.

This week the tractor will be providing demonstrations in the Morinville district, June 8; Thorhild district, June 9; Athabasca, June 10; Westlock, June 11 and Barrhead June 12.

Farmers are invited to attend a demonstration and see the type of information produced. The program has a schedule to follow, but individual invitations to do personalized demonstrations on a farmer's land are welcome.

For details on the demonstrations contact an Alberta Agriculture district office.

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Contact:	Murray Green 948-5101	John Chang 427-2181

Editor's Note: Attached is a schedule of the Tractor Fuel-Efficiency Demonstrations this summer and contact telephone numbers.

Tractor Fuel Efficiency Demonstration
Field Day Schedule

Date	Location	D.A. office number
June 8	Morinville	939-4351
9	Thorhild	398-3993
10	Athabasca	675-2252
11	Westlock	349-4465
12	Barrhead	674-8213
16	Sangudo/Evansburg	785-2266 (Sangudo) 727-3673 (Evansburg)
17	Edson	723-8205
18	Stony Plain	963-6101
19	Fort Saskatchewan	998-0190
22	Leduc	986-2251
July 3	Breton	542-5368 (Drayton Valley)
6	Lamont	895-2219
7	Ryley	663-3555
8	Wainwright	842-7540
9	Wainwright/Provost	
10	Provost	753-6871
14	Lloydminster	871-6460
15	Vermilion	853-8101
16	Vegreville	632-5400
21	Two Hills	657-3311
23	Smoky Lake	656-3613
28	St. Paul	645-6301
29	Bonnyville	826-3388
30	Lac La Biche	623-5218
Aug. 4	High Prairie	523-6500
5	Valleyview	524-3301
6	Debolt	538-5285 (Grande Prairie)
7	Grande Prairie/Sexsmith	538-5285
8	Valhalla Centre/Beaverlodge	538-5285
11	Gordondale/Silver Valley	864-3597
12	Rycroft/Wanham	864-3597
13	Girouxville	837-2211
14	Nampa	624-6205
15	Hawk Hills	836-3351
18	High Level	926-3788
19	La Crete	927-3712
21	Grimshaw	624-6205
22	Worsley	835-2241

Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch, Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Range tour planned at Kinsella

Ranchers interested in maintaining or improving native grassland are invited to a late-July field tour of the University of Alberta range work at Kinsella.

Providing the weather cooperates, ranchers will be given a guided tour of short and long term native range improvement projects conducted by researchers at the university's Kinsella Ranch. Kinsella is on Highway 14, about 70 kilometres east of Camrose.

Dr. Arthur Bailey, professor of range ecology and management with the department of plant science, says the July 21 tour will provide the university an opportunity to share the results of its field work with ranchers.

Bailey, who has been involved in research at Kinsella since 1966, says the tour will not only show examples of range condition, but will look at what beef production ranchers can expect under different management treatments.

The day-long tour will look at examples of brush control, including mechanical clearing versus spraying and burning of aspen. One area treated in 1981 was reburned this spring, with interesting results, says Bailey.

The tour will look at livestock and forage production in these treatment areas, costs and returns, control of brush regrowth and grass survival. They will also discuss practical management implications.

Later in the day the tour will look at long-term projects such as beef production on native range under five grazing treatments.

Specifically looking at rough fescue range, examples will show the impact of variables such as grazing at different times in the season, number of cattle and length of grazing period. There will be discussion on what it all means to ranchers in practical range management terms.

The free tour will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch will be available at Kinsella Ranch. If the weather is bad the tour will be cancelled.

For more information or to register contact Bailey at 432-5338, or staff members, Barry Irving, 464-1813 or Mike Willoughby at 336-2448.

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Contact: Dr. Arthur Bailey - 432-5338

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Dissolved salt can affect plant growth

Too much salt in the water can harm the growth of many fruit and vegetable crops, says a soil and water specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Ron McMullin says although it is difficult to remove dissolved salt or sodium from a water supply, there are a few moves commercial growers and home gardeners can try to reduce the problem.

He says first have the water analyzed to determine salt content and then considered available options.

"Unseen by the eye, dissolved salts are found in practically all water," says McMullin. "Water from major rivers and irrigation district works is usually low in salt.

"However, water from wells, surface runoff in areas having springs or dryland saline seeps, and water in small streams fed by groundwater frequently have a high salt content.

"If a newly developed water supply comes from one of these latter sources, it should be checked for its total salt and sodium content before being used for irrigation."

The specialist says shrubs, fruit trees and bushes, beans, cucumbers and melons are particularly sensitive to salty water. He says if people have found these types of plants difficult to grow, there may be too much salt in the water supply.

There are three primary ways in which salts directly affect plant growth. First, salts hold onto water making it difficult for plant roots to extract moisture even from a moist soil. This is the main salinity effect.

Second, a prominence of one kind of salt can interfere with the uptake of certain plant nutrients. The most common case of this is too much sodium preventing calcium uptake.

Third, plants can absorb water and salts through their leaves; if too much salt is adsorbed, the leaves will yellow and eventually fall off. Hairy-leaved plants like potatoes and tomatoes are generally more susceptible to this than smooth-leaved plants like cauliflower and cabbage.

(Cont'd)

Dissolved salt can affect plant growth (cont'd)

If a white dust appears on plant leaves following irrigation, then the salt content is very high. The tips of soil clods will also show a white coating. In a few years, nothing but kochia and foxtail will grow.

Some fruit such as tomatoes will develop a blackened circular area on the blossom end if there is too much sodium in the water. This is the result of a nutritional problem where sodium prevents calcium uptake.

McMullin says sodium also makes surface soil hard and crusted. A good seedbed is difficult to prepare in sodium-affected soils since large hard lumps form if the soil is worked too wet or too dry.

Water treated with a water softener will usually have a high sodium content since sodium ions are added to give water its smooth feeling and better sudsing action.

Water coming from a groundwater source is often high in sodium since sodium sulfate is a widespread, predominant salt in the prairies.

"There is no magic way to make salts disappear," says the specialist with the conservation and development branch in Lethbridge. "Distillation and reverse osmosis are rarely practical for providing the volumes of water needed to irrigate a yard let alone a crop."

To combat salinity,several techniques can be considered:

1. A large water application in the fall can be used to push salts downward. This would be about 150 mm of water applied in late September or early October.
2. Trickle (drip) lines can be used on bushes, trees, and other shrubs in a yard. This technique constantly pushes salts downward and outward away from the emitters.
3. A water source with less salt may be available either for direct use or mixing.
4. Salt resistant plant varieties may be available.

McMullin says gypsum may also offer some relief to the sodium problem.

Gypsum is a slowly dissolving salt that provides calcium which is good for soils. A soil and water analysis is necessary to determine the exact amount of gypsum needed to counter a sodium problem, but an application of one kilogram per five square metres would rarely be excessive, he says.

(Cont'd)

Dissolved salt can affect plant growth (cont'd)

The specialist says water analysis can be done by many private chemical laboratories. As well, health units, in their analysis of drinking water often provide enough information for an irrigation interpretation.

For an interpretation of water quality and a recommendation contact a local irrigation specialist. In southern Alberta contact McMullin at the Alberta Agriculture office in Lethbridge at 381-5338.

People living in the northern two-thirds of the province can contact the regional irrigation specialist in Airdrie at 948-5101.

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Contact: Ron McMullin
381-5338

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Nothing routine about May weather

May was a mixed bag of weather, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

Peter Dzikowski, agricultural weather resource specialist, says May started off warm with near record high temperatures, and then turned bitterly cold.

It gave some parts of Alberta more precipitation, including snow, than they wanted and didn't give other areas enough.

"May 1987 will probably be remembered for the snowstorm that hit most of central Alberta on May 19," says Dzikowski. "Minimum temperatures in the cold, clear air behind the storm dropped to between -7 and -9 C in much of central Alberta.

"Minimum temperature values of -2 to -5 C were reported in the Peace River block and in southern Alberta. Reports of frost injury to crops were varied, but the effects of the freezing weather were not devastating, except in certain localized areas."

The specialist says average temperatures for the month were about 1 to 2 C above normal. High Level reported an average temperature for May of 10.2 C, which is 0.9 C above the long term average for the month. Edson at 9.8 C was 1.7 C warmer than the long term normal. Medicine Hat reported an average temperature of 13.9 C, 1.6 C warmer than their normal value for May.

The precipitation distribution across Alberta in May was very uneven, he says. The Peace River block reported generally near normal precipitation amounts of around 25 to 35 mm. Whitecourt and Edson reported 65.8 and 72 mm of precipitation, respectively, 25 per cent above normal for the month.

The wet spot was in central Alberta where Namao reported 90.1 mm of precipitation, 136 per cent above normal, and Edmonton International Airport reported 79.7 mm, 90 per cent above normal.

(Cont'd)

Nothing routine about May weather (cont'd)

However, Rocky Mountain House at 27.4 and Medicine Hat at 18.4 mm only got half their normal precipitation for May. Much of southern Alberta was even drier; Lethbridge at 20.3 mm was 40 per cent of normal, while Calgary at 10 mm was 25 per cent of normal for May.

"May has been a dry month in southern Alberta and has caused delays in seeding because of dry surface soil layers," says Dzikowski. "The dry soil, and high winds June 1 caused problems with blowing soil in many parts of Alberta."

For more information, contact Dzikowski at 422-4385.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4285

June 8, 1986
For immediate release

Canola and cereal diseases covered in tour

North-central Alberta farmers might find a late-June tour of cereal and canola fields a good investment of time as they learn about economical disease control measures for their crops.

"Crop diseases can rob you," says Bill Chapman, regional crop production specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Barrhead. "And recognizing the symptoms is your first step towards the control of disease."

To help farmers diagnose problems, economical disease control will be the theme of the June 26 Cereal and Canola Disease Tour sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Canola Grower's Association.

Symptoms will be pointed out during the bus tour of local fields, which leaves from the community hall in Gibbons, a town northeast of Edmonton. The day's activities are scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration fee of $10 includes lunch.

Speakers participating in the tour include Dr. Joe Tewari, plant pathologist from the University of Alberta, discussing canola diseases such as sclerotinia, blackleg, aster yellows and alternaria. Other speakers examining agronomic practices for disease control include Chapman and John Hladky, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist from Morinville.

Steve Slopek, provincial sclerotinia survey coordinator will focus on disease thresholds for control, while Geoff Wood, technical representative for Ciba Geigy will talk about economical thresholds for control of cereal leaf diseases.

Other chemical company representatives will update farmers on fungicide application.

Farmers are asked to register by calling Morninville district office at 939-4351.

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Contact: Maureen Low - 674-8258

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Preconditioning seminar offered June 22

Farmers and ranchers wondering why a fuss is made over preconditioned calves each fall will have a chance to quiz their colleagues and other specialists about the program at a one-day seminar in Edmonton this month.

Cattlemen and government and university specialists will take the floor June 22 to explain to Alberta producers the value of preconditioning calves.

Sponsored by the Alberta Cattle Commission and Alberta Agriculture, the June 22 seminar will be held at the department headquarters, the J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street.

Topics will include a review of the present Alberta Certified Preconditioned Feeder Program as well as a look at preconditioning in Ontario and the United States.

There will also be discussion of possible changes to the present Alberta program.

Several animal health professionals will outline the technical aspects of the program followed by a panel of beef producers who will share their experiences and perceptions.

Speakers for the seminar include: Dr. Terry Church, acting director of Alberta Agriculture's Animal Health Division; Brian Harris of Red Deer, supervisor of the Alberta preconditioning program; Dr. Neil Anderson, cattle diseases consultant with the University of Guelph; Dr. Dwayne Miksch, University of Kentucky; Dr. Roy Lewis of Westlock; Sandy Bennett of Ponoka; Bruce McNeil of Turner Valley; Simmon Bekkering of Grassy Lake; John Carnine of Lethbridge and Albert Pimm of Grimshaw.

A $10 registration fee is payable at the door.

For more information on the seminar contact Gordon Mitchell with the Alberta Cattle Commission in Calgary at 291-4800.

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Contact: Gordon Mitchell
291-4800

June 8, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

ALBERTA DAIRY CONGRESS PLANNED FOR LEDUC

One of the largest dairy shows in Alberta history is to be held in Leduc in late July as the dairy industry sponsors the first Alberta Dairy Congress. The July 28-29 show is designed to be of interest to both dairy farmers and consumers. The event will feature a trade show of the latest in dairy equipment and products, along with production and management information for farmers and consumer information on milk and other dairy products. Every aspect of the dairy industry will be covered by the congress which will take over both the newly-built Leduc Curling Rink and the Black Gold Cultural Centre. Because of its central location, Leduc was selected the site for what is expected to be an annual event. For more information about the congress or to check on display opportunities contact the Alberta Dairy Congress, Box 1189, Leduc, Alberta, T9E 2Y7 or call Laurie Mittlestadt, congress manager, at 986-8108.

4-H MEMBERS PLAN INTERPROVINCIAL EXCHANGE

Five Alberta 4-H delegates will meet in Calgary in early July for a send-off banquet before leaving on 14 day exchange programs to another Canadian provinces. The five, recently named at the 4-H Selections program, will spend about two weeks learning about customs and lifestyles in another province in the exchange sponsored by The Royal Bank of Canada. Alberta youths participating in the July 6 to 20 event, include Val Bulter of Rimbey who will be visiting British Columbia; Victor Majeau, of Riviere Qui Barre, who will be visiting Saskatchewan; Patricia Kirylchuk of Lac La Biche, who will be off to Quebec; Laura Mappin, of Byemoor, who will be leaving for Nova Scotia and Lori Anderson of Bowden who will be visiting Newfoundland.

(Cont'd)

DELEGATES TO ATTEND MONTANA 4-H CONGRESS

Four youths from central and north-central Alberta will head south July 3 to participate in the Montana 4-H Congress. Terry Gottenbos, of St. Brides, Marie Hoar of Innisfail, Maureen Kuskak of Edmonton and Trent Svenningsen of Ponoka will head to Bozeman to participate in seminars, workshops and discussions which make up the annual nine-day event. They will also have an opportunity to tour historical and agriculture-related points of interest in Montana. The tour is sponsored by Alberta Agriculture. The four were named at the recent Alberta 4-H Selections Program.

ART OLSON GUEST SPEAKER AT MELFORT

Dr. Art Olson, assistant deputy minister responsible for research with Agriculture Canada and former assistant deputy minister with Alberta Agriculture, will be guest speaker later this month at the Melfort Research Station annual livestock and forage field day. Olson will be joined by George O'Bertos from the Saskatchewan lands branch and Dr. Brian Wurtz, past presdient of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. O'Bertos will speak on soil conservation and pasture management, while Wurtz will discuss health problems in beef herds. Farmers are invited to attend the June 25 event which includes tours of the federal research facility along with talks on livestock and forage production topics.

NEW SWINE RESEARCH CENTRE OPENED

Alberta hog producers are invited to attend the official opening of the new University of Alberta Swine Research Centre in Edmonton, June 12. The ceremony will follow an 11 a.m. tour of the facility. After lunch producers are also urged to participate in the Feeders' Day program which involves discussion of topics such as feed evaluation in pigs, use of young boars as slaughter animals and related research topics. The event will be held at the university research farm at 115 Street and 61 Avenue in Edmonton. Following the program there will be an evening barbecue and activities. For more information contact the department of animal science at 432-2343.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 15, 1987

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Agriculture census figures released

Although their numbers may be down slightly and their average age may be increasing, Alberta farmers on average are working more acres on bigger farms, according to figures from the 1986 Census of Agriculture.

The national census information recently released by Statistics Canada paints a picture of relative stability and in some cases, growth, for agriculture in Alberta, compared to other provinces.

Since the last census in 1981 there has only been a 0.5 per cent decrease in the number of Alberta farms. The June 1986 census showed there were 57,777 farms, a decrease of only 279 from 1981.

Other highlights showed there are about one million acres more of agricultural land in production now compared to 1981. The number of farmers 55 years of age or over has increased 13.7 per cent compared to 1981 and the average farm size has increased slightly to 880 acres from 860 acres.

Officials with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton say these initial observations are really only a cursory assessment of the state of agricultural affairs in the province.

Chuck Sterling and Nithi Govindasamy, with the department's statistics branch, say more analysis is needed to provide an indepth revue of the census data.

The statistics specialists say the census provided a record of agricultural information at a specific point in time. It recorded how agriculture was as of June 3, 1986 when farmers completed the census form.

"The census is providing some interesting and surprising information," says Sterling, head of the statistics branch. "I believe agriculture in Alberta has been able to cope much better with the problems facing the industry than have many other provinces."

(Cont'd)

"The figures show a relatively strong industry and in those areas where we are part of a national declining trend, our rate of decline often is much less than other provinces."

Govindasamy says the census information must be measured against other economic influences to determine the meaning of some figures.

As an example the census revealed that hired help - the number of weeks of paid labor on farms - increased by 55 per cent in 1986 compared to 1981.

Statisticians will try to determine the reason for the increase. Is it because farmers are getting older, farms are bigger and more labor is needed? Is it because farmers are not buying as much new machinery and are making do with older equipment and more manual labor? Is it because the cost of labor dropped making hired help more affordable?

Statisticians will attempt to answer these types of questions in looking at many of the figures provided by the census.

"Also because the census is a record of agriculture at a particular point in time it may not be a true indication of trends," says Govindasamy, assistant branch head. "Without crosschecking and comparing figures, it is difficult to know whether a certain figure is a true reflection of the situation.

"We have to look at whether figures are trending up or down, or was that figure for June 1986 unusual for the conditions and markets we experience today. The real value of the 1986 census may not be known until the 1991 federal census is taken and then we can compare census information over the last 10 years."

Statisticians will spend several weeks going over census figures, obtaining regional information from Statistics Canada and putting Alberta figures into context for producers and other members of the agriculture industry.

For more information on the agriculture census contact the Alberta Agriculture statistics branch in Edmonton, at 427-4011.

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Contact: Chuck Sterling - Nithi Govindasamy
427-4011

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Farm numbers down by half a per cent

There has been a slight reduction in the number of farms in Alberta over the last five years, according to information recently released by Statistics Canada.

Information collected from the June 1986 Census of Agriculture shows there are 57,777 farms in Alberta, a drop of 0.5 per cent from the last census in 1981. Six years ago there were 58,056 farms in the province.

Alberta's decrease in farm numbers is low compared to other jurisdictions. Newfoundland reported a decrease of 4.1 per cent, while Nova Scotia had the largest decrease in farm numbers of 15.1 per cent.

Looking at the figures in more detail, the number of family farms in Alberta have decreased by 4.6 per cent since 1981.

Alberta Agriculture statisticians say the decrease is the lowest in Canada. There were 47,862 family farms in Alberta reported in the 1986 census, a drop of 2,307 from 1981.

Nithi Govindasamy, assistant head of the department's statistics branch, says the decrease does not mean a loss of 2,307 farms but reflects a change in the class of ownership. He says a large part of the decrease means farms changed from individual ownership to partnerships or corporations.

Comparing Alberta's 4.6 per cent decrease across the country, Saskatchewan had an 8.7 per cent drop or 5,193 reduction in the number of family farms; Manitoba had a 11 per cent or 2,832 family farm reduction; B.C. had a 11.3 per cent drop, or 1,903 family farm reduction; Ontario had a 17.1 per cent drop, or a 11,702 family farm reduction; while Quebec had a 20.4 per cent drop or a 6,477 family farm reduction.

For more information on census figures contact Alberta Agriculture statistics branch in Edmonton, at 427-4011.

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Contact: Nithi Govindasamy - Chuck Sterling
427-4011

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Albertans farm a million more acres

There are about a million more acres of agricultural land now in use in Alberta compared to 1981, as recorded on the federal Census of Agriculture.

Figures recently released by Statistics Canada show that overall farmland acreage in Alberta has increased by 2.2 per cent, the second largest increase in Canada.

The census conducted in June 1986 shows there were 51.04 million acres of farmland in Alberta compared to 49.93 million in 1981 when the last census was taken.

The increase includes improved land such as cropland, pasture, summerfallow and farmsteads and unimproved land such as woodlands and native pasture.

Newfoundland, at 9.3 per cent, had the highest increase in farmland acreage in Canada. It is noteworthy the increase in Alberta's acreage is about 12 times larger than all the agricultural land in Newfoundland.

The cropland component of total farmland acreage in Alberta increased by 8.5 per cent, according to census figures.

There are 22.641 million acres of cropland in the province used to produce the major cereal and oil crops, special crops and tame hay. The majority of this increase is attributed to more land being brought into production as well as a 3.6 per cent reduction in summerfallow acreage.

By comparison, Saskatchewan had a 13.5 per cent increase in crop land, although a very slight increase in new acreage brought in production. Saskatchewan is farming about 32.92 million acres, with the majority of its increase attributed to a 15.6 per cent reduction in acres held for summerfallow.

For more information on census figures contact Alberta Agriculture statistics branch in Edmonton, at 427-4011.

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Contact: Nithi Govindasamy - Chuck Sterling
427-4011

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Land, machinery and livestock values drop

Following a national trend, the value of agriculture land machinery and livestock in Alberta has dropped by more than 22 per cent since 1981, according to federal census figures.

The Census of Agriculture data recently released by Statistics Canada show the value of farm capital in Alberta dropped by 22.3 per cent in five years. The census was taken June 3, 1986.

The decline is blamed mainly on falling land and building values. Statisticians say the drop is made dramatic by comparing it to 1981 census figures when farm capital was near its peak. Farm capital in Alberta in 1986 was set at $28.623 billion compared to $36.827 billion in 1981.

Looking at other provinces, B.C.'s farm capital value dropped by 23.9 per cent, while Ontario's farm capital value dropped 24.1 per cent.

For more information on census figures contact Alberta Agriculture statistics branch in Edmonton, at 427-4011.

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Contact: Nithi Govindasamy - Chuck Sterling
427-4011

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Age of farm population shifting

There are more older Alberta farm operators staying in business and fewer younger farmers coming on stream, according to federal statistics.

In the recently released Census of Agriculture figures, the number of farmers under age 35 in Alberta in June 1986 decreased by 8.3 per cent compared to 1981.

The census shows this is part of a national trend. Across Canada the number of farmers under age 35 decreased by 17.4 per cent.

Alberta had the smallest percentage of decrease of young farmers in Canada, says the report. In Saskatchewan the number of farmers under age 35 is down 16.3 per cent; in Manitoba the numbers are down 16.1 per cent; in Ontario the numbers are down 21.7 per cent and in Quebec the numbers are down 22.2 per cent.

At the other end of the scale Alberta had one of the highest increases in Canada in the number of farmers over age 55.

The figures show Alberta had a 13.7 per cent increase since 1981 in farmers over age 55, while B.C. had an increase of 13.9 per cent.

Quebec had a 7.6 per cent increase in farmers over age 55, while Saskatchewan had a three per cent increase, Manitoba a 2.1 per cent increase and Ontario a 0.2 per cent increase.

The Maritimes reported the opposite situation. Nova Scotia had a 16.6 per cent decrease in the number of farmers over age 55, while New Brunswick had a 13.3 per cent decrease, Newfoundland a 8.9 per cent decrease and Prince Edward Island a 6.5 per cent decrease.

For more information on census figures contact Alberta Agriculture statistics branch in Edmonton, at 427-4011.

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Contact: Nithi Govindasamy - Chuck Sterling
427-4011

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Slight increase in off-farm jobs

There has been only a slight increase in the number of Alberta farmers having jobs off the farm in the last five years. And there is a large increase in the amount of hired help employed on Alberta farms. Also about one-third of Alberta farmers say they are debt-free.

These are some of the findings in the statistics recently released by the federal government following the 1986 Census of Agriculture.

The census shows that about 43.5 per cent of farmers report some type of paid off-farm jobs. This is only a 3.6 per cent increase from 1981.

The off-farm work amounts to 4.2 million man-days a year, or an average of 167 days of off-farm work a year for those farm operators reporting off farm work.

The census figures also show the number of weeks per year for paid hired help has increased by 55 per cent since 1981.

The nationwide figures show Alberta farmers are on par with other provinces in reducing debt.

The census showed 32.9 per cent of Alberta farmers paid no interest implying they had no mortgage or debts. About 31.5 per cent of Saskatchewan farmers said they paid no interest; 35.4 per cent of Manitoba farmers said they paid no interest; 44.6 per cent of Ontario farmers said they paid no interest and 38.9 per cent of Quebec farmers said they paid no interest.

For more information on census figures contact Alberta Agriculture statistics branch in Edmonton, at 427-4011.

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Contact: Nithi Govindasamy - Chuck Sterling
427-4011

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Poultry research day June 19

Provincial poultry producers are urged to break the routine this week and have a look at the latest poultry research work at the University of Alberta.

The department of animal science is sponsoring a poultry research day June 19 at the university farm in Edmonton.

Beginning at 1 p.m., producers will be given a tour of poultry research facilities followed by a review of research work.

Opening remarks will be given by Dr. Roy Berg, of the department of animal science, Harold Hanna, assistant deputy minister, Alberta Agriculture, Don Cook, chairman of the Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board, Dale Steckley, vice-chairman of the Alberta Chicken Growers Marketing Board, Henry Zolkewski, chairman of the Alberta Turkey Producers Marketing Board and Terry Fast, chairman of the Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board.

During the program, Dr. Frank Robinson will discuss reproductive inefficiency in poultry, while Dr. Jeong Sim will provide a poultry meat and egg research update and Dr. Vickie Baracos will discuss poultry meat production and disease.

The program will wrap up with a chicken barbecue at 4:15 p.m.

Robinson, Sim and Baracos are all new academic staff members at the university's poultry unit. Their work is part of the poultry initiatives program which is supported by Alberta Agriculture, the poultry industry and the university.

For more information or to register for the program contact the department of animal science at 432-3232, Frank Robinson at 432-3234; Jeong Sim at 432-5571 or Vickie Baracos at 432-2111.

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Contact: Frank Robinson
432-3234

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Time to register for Alberta Women's Week

There are no promised miracles, but Alberta farm women should be able to make some positive changes in their lives following three days of sound advice at the 57th annual Alberta Women's Week in Olds.

"Three Days to a New You" is the theme of the July 20 to 22 event at Olds College.

Speakers include psychologists, a minister, a fitness specialist, a lawyer, home economists, a teacher, a nutritionists and other consultants talking about needs and concerns facing farm women and suggesting ways of dealing with everyday problems.

There will be keynote speakers and panel discussions along with a range of subjects in select-a-sessions.

Registration for the conference must be submitted by July 6.

Organized by Alberta Agriculture home economics branch, the conference is billed as a "special event for farm women" says Kathy Lowther, district home economist in Vulcan.

The sessions will open July 20 with a panel discussion on "Change - Chance or Choice". Participants will include Keith Krull, a Calgary psychologist; Ed Omen, a Calgary minister; Betty Grudinski, an adult educator from Edmonton and Suzanne Truba, an image consultant from Calgary. Evening speaker will be Karen Caesar, a psychologist and consultant with the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

A blind psychologist, teacher, wife and mother, Donna Cookson Martin, will give the conference closing address July 22 talking about how to use adversity to strengthen ourselves, enhance self-esteem and contribute to success.

(Cont'd)

Time to register for Alberta Women's Week (cont'd)

Select-a-sessions will cover a wide range of topics including: organizing family finances by Karin Holst; dealing with anger by Lona Leiren; abuse in the family by Gerry Kilgannon; women and their rights by Colin Simmons; the new lean way of eating by Helen Bishop MacDonald; lifestyle fitness by Lorraine Glass; clothing and your image by Bertha Eggertson; starting your own small business by Mickey Meraw; putting your community group to work by Fern Richardson and public speaking by Karen Hoover.

Although regular registration is $20 per person, Lowther says a special offer of four delegates for the price of three is available. She says four neighboring farm women or friends can send in a joint registration for $60. Deadline is July 6.

Accommodation for the three days is available at Olds College at $80.90 for single accommodation and $60.90 for double. Camping and other motel information, as well as details on child care services are also available.

For more information or for registration forms contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist.

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Contact: Kathy Lowther
485-2236

June 15, 1986
For immediate release

More producers learn about computers

About 700 farmers from across the province went back to the classroom this spring either to learn the basics or improve their skills in computer operation.

Graham Rosher, one of two instructors with the Alberta Agriculture Computers on Wheels project, says enrolment in the 77 courses offered this spring was up by about 10 per cent compared to 1986. This was the second year of the three-year project.

Since the program began in late 1985 more than 1,300 producers from 135 Alberta communities have been given hands-on experience and information on how computers can be used on farms, says Rosher.

Two vans, each with an instructor and a complement of computer equipment travelled from last November to late April to deliver courses in provincial buildings and community halls from southern Alberta to the Peace River region. Rosher was responsible for instruction in northern Alberta, while Olson provided instruction for producers in southern Alberta.

The program co-sponsored by IBM Canada, the University of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture appears to be effective. About 93 per cent of participants rated the course satisfactory to excellent, while 98 per cent said they would recommend it to others.

Computers on Wheels course evaluations also show nearly one-third of participants already own a computer, and more than half of participants plan to buy one. Because of suggestions made by farmers the courses will be revised this summer, says Rosher.

Two types of courses are offered: Introduction to Computers for Farm Use, and Spreadsheet Applications to Farm Management.

The introductory course covers basic computer operations, an introduction to spreadsheets, computerized record keeping, computer communications, word processing, recreational computing and purchasing a computer system.

(Cont'd)

The second course is designed for those who have a computer and a spreadsheet program. It teaches how to apply spreadsheets to common farm management problems with an emphasis on planning and designing effective solutions.

Information on the Computers on Wheels program is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or by contacting Rosher at the farm business management branch in Olds at 556-4240.

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Contact: Graham Rosher
556-4240

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Is soil compaction a problem?

Although soil compaction hasn't been a major concern in Alberta, farmers can learn whether the problem is fact or fiction during the annual Breton Plots field day, July 3.

University of Alberta researchers will, during the 57th annual field day and soils/crops clinic, discuss with producers what they have learned about soil compaction in this part of the world.

Jim Robertson with the university's department of soil science says compaction hasn't been regarded serious because it was believed the annual freezing and thawing action in the ground kept soil loose.

However, Dr. David Chanasyk, a soils professor with the U of A, will go over his findings during the field day at the demonstration plots near Breton, a community 110 kilometres southwest of Edmonton.

Along with Chanasyk, other experts on the theme of soil tillage and tilth will include Dr. R. Heinonen from the University of Agriculture Science in Uppsala, Sweden and Dr. Ward Voorhees from the United States Department of Agriculture in Morris, Minnesota.

Seed-bed preparation, a tour of long-term field experiments and a look a new cropping and management practices will also be part of the field day agenda.

Farmers will have a chance to ask specialists about specific problems on soils, fertilizers, crops and weeds.

Provided the weather cooperates, participants will also have a chance to see a demonstration on achieving optimum tractor fuel efficiency. A tractor specially equipped with an on-board computer, operated by Alberta Agriculture and Olds College, will be put through the paces to show which gear, at what amount of throttle provides the best fuel efficiency for the work being done.

Robertson says an alternate wet-weather program has been developed. Lunch will be available at the site.

(Cont'd)

Is soil compaction a problem? (cont'd)

To find the field plots travel 1.6 kilometres east and then 1.6 kilometres south, from the southeast corner of Breton townsite.

For more information on the field day contact Robertson at 432-3242 or Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist Gerald Laarhuis in Drayton Valley at 542-5368.

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Contact: Jim Robertson
432-3242

June 15, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

FUEL DEMONSTRATION TRACTOR MAKES ROUNDS

Alberta Agriculture's farm tractor fuel efficiency demonstration will be making an appearance in areas around Edmonton this coming week. The tractor has been specially equipped with an on-board computer to show how operating the tractor in different gears at different throttle can affect fuel use. Farmers are urged to contact their district agriculturist to learn where the tractor will be operating. The demonstration will be in the Sangudo/Evansburg district June 16, the Edson district June 17, the Stony Plain district June 18, the Fort Saskatchewan district June 19 and the Leduc district June 22.

4-H MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS RALLY

Alberta 4-H club members and supporters in the Daysland area east of Wetaskiwin, have raised more than $7,000 in memory of a club member killed in a car accident earlier this year. A beef calf owned by Bryce Jahns, 18, of Forrestberg, was sold for more than $7,000 at the Daysland 4-H Beef Show and Sale. Jahns died in a car accident in May. The money was donated to the Alberta 4-H Centre Memorial Fund. The calf, one of 75 sold during the day, was entered in the sale by Bryce's parents, Rudy and Joan Jahns. A syndicate of friends and neighbors paid more than $5,000 for the calf, then returned it to the auction to be resold. Another $2,000 was bid for the calf before the evening ended. Jahns had been an eight-year member of the Hastings Coulee 4-H Beef Club.

FARM SIZE UP SLIGHTLY

Although it's not a big increase, Statistics Canada reports the average size of Alberta farms has grown by about 20 acres. Figures just released from the Census of Agriculture conducted in 1986 show the average farm at 880 acres up from 860 acres in 1981.

(Cont'd)

PHEASANTS DISTRIBUTED TO 4-H MEMBERS

Alberta 4-H club members involved in pheasant projects are taking delivery of the 8,000 birds to be raised this year. About 2,500 birds raised at the Brooks Wildlife Centre were recently delivered to the Lacombe Research Centre for distribution. About 1,400 will go to club members in the Red Deer area. Earlier about 1,000 birds were distributed to Stettler region 4-H members. The pheasant raise-and-release program started as a pilot project in 1974 with about 200 chicks distributed to 4-H members. About 100,000 eggs will be hatched this year at the Brooks centre.

HORT WEEK PLANNED FOR OLDS

Green thumb enthusiasts are reminded to get their registrations in for the 23rd annual Hort Week at Olds College in late July. Five days of seminars and workshops have been designed for both novice and professional gardeners interested in improving skills in everything from flower arranging and operating a hobby greenhouse to developing a low maintenance yard and controlling insects in the garden. There are 22 courses offered from July 27 to 31. Accommodation is also available at the college. For more information or to register before the July 17 deadline contact the department of extension services at the college at 556-8344.

GRASSHOPPER PROBLEM WILL BE EARLIER

Agriculture Canada specialists say the warm spring weather is likely to bring on the grasshopper problem earlier this year although it is not expected to be worse than last year. Dr. Dan Johnson, crop entomologist with the Lethbridge Research Station says grasshoppers hatch and grow four to five times faster at 30 C than at 15 C. The warm weather will move the grasshopper hatching period about one week earlier. Johnson notes this may not be bad news. He says if the hoppers emerge from the soil over a shorter period, they can be controlled more effectively. Grasshoppers will be most severe in southern Alberta. Only three per cent of the area surveyed in central Alberta (north of Highway 12) will be severly infested. About six million hectares are expected to have moderate to very severe problems.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 22, 1987

CANADIANA
JUL 10 1987

For immediate release

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

June 22, 1987
For immediate release

New information services director named

Alberta Agriculture's Assistant Deputy Minister of Field Services, W.J. Dent, has announced the appointment of Jim Armet as director of the department's information services division.

Mr. Armet brings an extensive background in communications and farming to his new position. He holds a diploma in broadcast communications from the National Institute of Broadcasting and has held several positions with various communications firms.

He served as news director of CKGY Radio, Red Deer and as director of news and public affairs for CKRD Radio and T.V., Red Deer.

Mr. Armet also served as assistant news director of radio station CHNL in Kamloops, British Columbia. He worked as bureau chief and reporter for Broadcast News in Toronto before moving to Edmonton to serve as a Broadcast News reporter and set up the Alberta Broadcast News Bureau at the Alberta legislature.

For several years, Mr. Armet was the owner/operator of a 100-sow farrow to finish hog operation prior to serving as executive assistant to the Minister of the Environment. He has since served as executive assistant to two successive Ministers of Agriculture, the Hon. LeRoy Fjordbotten and the Hon. Peter Elzinga.

In this latter capacity he has worked very closely and cooperatively with many members of Alberta Agriculture and the farm public throughout the province.

In his new position, Mr. Armet is responsible for Alberta Agriculture's broadcast media, print media, news releases, film and video productions, publications and library.

He is also responsible for the coordination of the department's plans for legislation and for the preparation of orders-in-council and ministerial orders.

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Contact: W.J. Dent
427-2440

June 22, 1987
For immediate release

Protect livestock from blue-green algae

Once seed drills are put away, farmers should treat their farm ponds against a naturally-occurring algae buildup that can kill livestock.

Several Alberta farmers last year lost cattle to blue-green algae poisoning, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture. A farmer in the Rochester area north of Edmonton lost 16 cows in one afternoon after they drank from a water hole on the farm.

"Warm dry weather conditions are ideal for growth of blue-green algae," says Bob Buchanan, a regional engineering technologist with Alberta Agriculture in Barrhead. "The algae quickly multiply in sloughs, dugouts, ponds and lakes and can create a lethal concentration for livestock."

The algae produce a heavy concentration of cells that color the water dark green to dark blue. In some rare cases, the water may even turn greenish brown to red. This heavy growth and concentration of algae is called waterbloom. The most common type of blue-green algae in Alberta has the appearance of very fine, short grass clippings.

During the waterbloom stage, the algae produce poisons which can kill livestock and other animals, says Buchanan. There are two kinds of blue-green algae poisons - alkaloid and polypeptide types.

"The alkaloid type attacks the animal's nervous system and kills by suffocation," he says. "The alkaloid poisons kill suddenly and instantly. The polypeptide type attacks internal organs, especially the liver."

Although algicides provide a short-term cure to algae problems in ponds and dugouts, prevention is the best solution, says the specialist.

There are three main preventative measures. For new dugouts, proper construction which includes fairly steep slopes and good depth (four metres or more) will reduce algae growth. Shallow, flat sloped dugouts allow sunlight to penetrate to the bottom which enhances algae growth.

(Cont'd)

A second method is to control introduction of nutrients into the pond. Control pond-bank vegetation and, if possible, fence the pond to reduce the introduction of organic matter. A good grass cover around the dugout and along runoff channels will help to prevent soil from entering the dugout.

A third method is to pump oxygen into the dugout with a small air compressor. This procedure will circulate and cool the water, reducing algae growth.

"If some algae continue to persist after these preventative measures, then chemical control can be used," says Buchanan. "A number of chemicals are recommended for algae in contained, privately owned ponds and dugouts."

He says copper sulphate and Cutrine Plus are effective for algae control, while Reglone A (diquat) can be used for aquatic plants and some algae. For algae control normally two or three treatments are required during the summer.

The amount of chemical applied depends upon the rate of application of the chemical and the volume of water to be treated. For assistance in determining the rates or volume contact a district agriculturist or regional engineer or technologist in your area.

Alberta Agriculture's publications, Dugout Maintenance, Agdex 716(B31) and Dugout Aeration, Agdex 716(B13) provide further information on other common dugout water problems and their treatment. Copies are available from The Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Bob Buchanan
674-8253

June 22, 1987
For immediate release

Emergency advice available for oil injection injury

A 24-hour emergency hotline has been established to help doctors treating a relatively unusual injury caused when pressurized oil or other fluid gets under the skin.

Farm machinery manufacturers, Deere and Company of East Moline Illinois, have established the emergency service to advise doctors treating people suffering serious infection caused by a relatively minor accident.

As an example, the injury can occur when a pressurized hydraulic hose breaks or springs a pin-sized leak allowing a high pressure stream of oil or fluid to hit a farmer or repairman's skin.

There may be no serious external injury except for a drop of blood where the pressurized stream hit the skin, but oil or fluid may be trapped under the skin and travelling along the tissue plane.

"It's the type of injury I don't think most general practitioners would immediately recognize," says Dr. H.J. Hursh, associate medical director for Deere.

"It only takes a split second to happen and the only obvious damage to the skin may be the drop of blood. But within a few minutes the pain will be incredible and the infected area will begin to swell. The infected area must be cleaned immediately by a surgeon. If it is not attended to the infected tissue will die and other complications can set in."

Hursh says hands are most vulnerable to the injury. Oil or fluid from a pinhole leak in a high pressure hose can enter the skin and quickly travel under the skin or along a tendon. Although the injury may start out no bigger than a pin hole, surgeons may have to make up to a 12-inch incision along the tendon to make sure all oil or fluid is cleaned out.

"Most hand surgeons or general surgeons are probably familiar with the injury because it has been publicized in journals, but this emergency service has been created to provide physicians and surgeons with our best advice," says Hursh. "I wouldn't call it a common injury, but it happens often enough. We probably receive one or two calls a month."

(Cont'd)

Emergency advice available for oil injection injury (cont'd)

The associate medical director tells farmers and repairmen suffering the injury to immediately put ice on the infected area to reduce swelling and to see a doctor and surgeon at once.

"This should be treated as an emergency," says Hursh. "People won't have any trouble knowing something is wrong. The swelling and pain are totally out of proportion for the size of the original injury."

For 24-hour medical advice or more information on the injury contact the Deere and Company doctors in East Moline, Illinois at (309)752-4292.

Eric Jones, farm safety specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, says farmers and servicemen should take extra precaution when working around high pressure hoses to reduce the risk of this type of injury.

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Contact:	Eric Jones 427-2186	Dr. H.J. Hursh (309)752-6672

June 22, 1987
For immediate release

What is the value of standing hay?

Both the buyer and seller have to be on their toes when negotiating a price for standing hay, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

No one minds a fair price, but both sides must make sure their interests are protected considering the variables that can come into play between the hayfield and the haystack.

"In pricing a standing crop of hay you must consider yield, quality, future selling price, cost of putting it up and weather risk," says Garth Nickorick, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds. "This requires a sharp eye and a sharp pencil.

"The value of standing hay should equal the market price for hay less the cost of cutting, baling, stacking and a risk allowance. From the landowner's point of view, a payment equal to the value of hay in the stack, less the custom charges to get it there, is a starting point for negotiation."

A survey by Alberta Agriculture reveals a custom charge for cutting of $3 to $5 per ton ($6 to $10 per acre), with square baling at $8 to $9 per ton ($.30 per bale), and stacking at $7 to 8 per ton ($.25 per bale). On a custom basis the total cost of putting up the hay is $18 to $22 per ton.

"Suppose the expected fall selling value is $60 per ton in the stack," says Nickorick. "Subtracting $20 per ton for production costs, the landowner receives $40 per ton. And the landowner alone bears the risk of weather damage and price decline."

But the buyer of standing hay also has additional costs to consider, says the specialist.

"Once the crop is bought all risk is transferred to the buyer. A large allowance should be included for potential weather problems which may totally ruin the crop. A risk allowance for unexpected rain and wind damage can be as high as 20 to 40 per cent of the value of the crop. Using the example of $60-a-ton hay, a 30 per cent risk allowance would equal $20 per ton."

(cont'd)

What is the value of standing hay? (cont'd)

Nickorick says the buyer can pay more for a standing crop than just the going cash rent for land because the expense of establishing the crop and fertilizer have likely been paid for by the landowner. He says this removes some production risk and expense associated with a rental arrangement.

Other perils include yield estimation if cash is paid before harvest, and prices that don't live up to expectation. As the price of hay decreases the cost of putting it up may not. This leaves the landowner with an even smaller percentage.

Nickorick says the final decision and price reached depend on negotiation and local conditions.

A copy of the custom rate charges for haying and silage are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
556-4247

June 22, 1987
For immediate release

New special crops researcher named

In keeping with its special crops mandate, Alberta Agriculture has hired a new researcher and extension specialist at its centre near Brooks.

Henry Najda, a Lethbridge native, who previously worked for Agriculture Canada research stations in Lethbridge and Beaverlodge, has joined the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center (ASCHRC) staff as a research agronomist. An agronomist is a specialist in field crop production.

In making the announcement Tom Krahn, centre director, says Najda will be responsible for applied research, extension and development activities as part of the centre's special crops and agronomy program.

Research work will emphasize annual and perennial forages for pasture, hay, silage and seed production. It will include varietal and agronomic studies under irrigation and cereal and oilseed regional variety testing as part of an Alberta-wide program to update recommendations.

Other new crops and cooperative projects will be conducted with other provincial and federal government research stations and with industry.

Najda obtained his bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of Lethbridge in 1971. He later received a masters degree in pest management from Simon Fraser University in 1976.

Through his work with the federal research stations he has extensive forage seed production experience as well as several years experience in field crops research.

The specialist is a member of the Alberta Forage Advisory Committee and Annual Forage Variety Sub Committee. He also belongs to several professional associations including the Alberta Institute of Agrologists, the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the Canadian Society of Agronomy and the International Herbage Seed Production Research Group.

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Contact: Tom Krahn or Henry Najda
362-3391

June 22, 1987
For immediate release

How to become a new employer

Farmers and other new business people wondering what's involved in becoming an employer can contact federal tax officials in Calgary and Edmonton for direction.

Revenue Canada's Source Deductions will need some basic information on the business and proposed employee situation, but they can get new employers over unfamiliar territory.

Whether a farmer is hiring family members, regular farm labor, or workers under special wage programs, Source Deductions can get them registered as an employer.

"A number of questions have been received from people wanting to become first-time employers," says Alex Ostapiuk, a farm management economist with the Alberta Agriculture farm business management branch in Olds. "But people hesitate to become employers because they don't know the rules.

"Some prospective employers have weighed the pros and cons of paying family members and decided it is advantageous to do so. Others want to satisfy the employer requirements of Alberta government wage assistance programs such as 'The Alberta Wage Subsidy Program' and a new one called 'The Alberta Business and Community Development (ABCD) Program'."

Ostapiuk says new employers should call Source Deductions at the nearest Revenue Canada district office to order a first-time employer package. The telephone numbers for new employers in Edmonton and points north are 1-800-232-1966 and ask to be transferred to 420-2231, or call Source Deductions at 420-2231 collect. People living south of Edmonton call Calgary 1-800-332-1410.

"When your call is answered, Source Deductions will ask a number of questions regarding yourself as a new employer," says Ostapiuk. "If the Source Deductions people are extremely busy, they will send out the questionnaire for you to answer. The form should be filled out and returned as quickly as possible."

(Cont'd)

How to become a new employer (cont'd)

After the basic information is received Source Deductions will assign an employer number. They will also send out a new employer kit with tables to consult and forms that must be completed and returned.

For full details on payroll procedures, get a copy of the publication "Farm Employment Records and Forms" (Agdex 818-31) from an Alberta Agriculture district office; the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0, or the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Alex Ostapiuk
556-4235

June 22, 1987
For immediate release

Farmers should consider hiring family members

An Alberta Agriculture specialist says paying family members for farm related work is an option farmers should consider.

Alex Ostapiuk, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds, says the issue has both pros and cons.

The specialist says paying a spouse or children for work on the farm can provide benefits such as tax advantages and drawbacks such as increased paperwork.

He suggests farm managers check the following points before making a decision:

The advantages:

1. children's spending money, when paid out as a wage payment, can be tax deductible;
2. by splitting the farm's earnings among family members, the total income tax payable by the entire family will likely be reduced, giving more disposable after tax family income;
3. the employment expense deduction and the individualized personal exemptions can be used to a greater extent, thereby keeping more after-tax income available to the family;
4. spousal income or that of another dependant can be maintained at a sufficiently high level to allow for CPP contributions and therefore, qualify them for retirement and disability benefits;
5. students attending appropriate educational institutions would have employment earnings against which their tuition and moving expense deductions can be used;
6. the family's interest in the farming operation increases because of the monetary recognition of their efforts, especially given most farmers' practice of paying their neighbor's boy but not their own;
7. by paying wages to family members, a farmer can avoid non-essential tax savings expenditures, such as purchasing equipment for Capital Cost Allowance or the Investment Tax Credit.

(Cont'd)

8. Salaries to the children could increase the size of the child tax credit plus the refundable sales tax credit - since they depend upon the net income found on page two of the individual tax returns of the farmer and spouse.
9. Salaries to the children or spouse reduce the net income of the farmer which could allow medical expenses to be deducted since these are based upon three per cent of net income of the farmer or spouse, whichever is lower.

The disadvantages:

1. added paperwork and bookkeeping when paying a salary or wage to an employee;
2. added payroll expense for the employer, such as Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Unemployment Insurance Commission (UIC) payments. CPP deductions are required for all employees 18 years or older up to the age of 65.
   All individuals must pay UIC premiums except for those in categories such as: a. self-employed people; b. economic dependants of the employer; c. spouse of employer if employer is single proprietor; and d. people 65 years of age of over.
3. funds paid out in the form of salaries and bonuses are no longer in the hands and under the control of the farm manager.
4. Exemption for dependants probably will be lost, but this is becoming less of an incentive given the year to year decreases in the various dependancy exeptions.
5. disagreements about management may arise when family members are more involved in the business.

For more information about paying dependants, get a copy of the Alberta Agriculture publication "Tax and the Farm Family" (Agdex 837-6) from an Alberta Agriculture district office, from the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0, or the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Alex Ostapiuk
556-4235

June 22, 1987
For immediate release

Canola farmers should check for sclerotinia

With more than three million acres seeded, Alberta canola growers should soon be checking crops to measure the risk of sclerotinia stem rot - a common, but controllable fungus that can dramatically affect crop yield.

Specialists with Alberta Agriculture recommend farmers follow a three-stage checklist, first to determine susceptability to the disease, second to gauge how fast it may spread, and third to assess the yield potential of the crop.

The specialists say it is too late to take control measures after the disease becomes obvious. Farmers must inspect their crops early to determine the disease risk, and decide whether spraying is worthwhile.

They predict infection levels could be high this year if wet conditions prevail in late June and early July.

Dr. Ieuan Evans, supervisor of plant pathology and Phil Thomas, supervisor of oilseed crops with the department, say surveys have shown more than a third of Alberta farmers report sclerotinia problems. About half of those, 18 per cent, reported moderate to heavy crop damage.

"In an attempt to help canola growers in Alberta predict outbreaks of sclerotinia white stem rot a disease forecast system was developed," says Evans. "The modified 1987 checklist is available to growers to help them arrive at a decision on the necessity of applying a fungicide."

The checklist, which has farmers answer 15 questions about crop history and crop condition, arose out of cooperative disease control trials carried out by Alberta Agriculture, the University of Alberta and two agrochemical companies.

The yes-or-no or multiple choice answers have an assigned score. If a farmer has a low score after going through the checklist the risk and value of spraying for sclerotinia is rated low. If he has a high score, it suggests action is needed.

(Cont'd)

The crop should be assessed and the checklist completed shortly after first flower. First flower occurs when 75 per cent of the plants in the field have three open flowers on the main stem.

Evans says research has shown the value of spraying for sclerotinia is tied to the degree of infection.

"Research indicates it is economically justifiable to apply fungicide when field scouting indicates disease levels, at crop maturity, reach 20 per cent in Argentine canola and more than 40 per cent in Polish canola."

These figures are based on a $6 (Cnd) return per bushel or $265 per tonne, and a fungicide application cost of about $20 per acre or $50 per hectare.

Evans says although the checklist offers no guarantees because the weather can quickly change conditions, it is the best yardstick available.

"The checklist is not always reliable since sudden weather changes could cause infestations to occur unexpectedly, or high risk fields may show limited disease development." he says. "However, at present, this is the only practical direction that can be provided in deciding whether to apply fungicide."

Losses from the disease were light in 1984 and 1985 because of dry to very dry growing conditions in July of both years.

July 1986 was very wet - suitable for disease development - but losses were low because there was little fungus present in the two previous years.

"The average infectious levels in 1986 were about five per cent province-wide, up considerably from previous years," says Evans. "If July of this year turns out to be wet, or if we have heavy rainfall in late June with overcast skies in early July, we can expect much higher infection levels. This is particularly true if canola is grown on canola stubble."

For more information on the sclerotinia checklist contact Dr. Evans in Edmonton at 427-5350, Phil Thomas in Lacombe at 782-4641 or the nearest Alberta Agriculture district office.

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Contact: Dr. Ieuan Evans
427-5350

Phil Thomas
782-4641

Editor's Note: Attached for use if space permits, is the sclerotinia checklist and additional information on spray recommendations.

A

SCLEROTINIA STEM ROT CHECKLIST

WHEN TO COMPLETE THE CHECKLIST

The time to fill out the checklist and assess the crop is shortly after first flower. First flower occurs when 75 percent of the plants in the field have three open flowers on the main stem i.e. about 1% of flower buds have opened.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE CHECKLIST

Read each question and circle the point value assigned to the answer you would choose for each section. Count up the points and enter this into the total box. Please answer all the questions.

STAGE ONE - DISEASE POTENTIAL

1. Have you previously had good canola crops at flowering and poor yields at harvest, even though growing conditions were favourable?	YES NO	20 0
2. Have you seen sclerotinia stem rot in your crop in previous years?	YES NO	20 10
3. Have you heard of stem rot problems in your area in the past 2 to 3 years?	YES NO	10 5
4. Have you seen black sclerotes in your harvested seed in the past 2 to 3 years?	YES NO	20 10
5. In previous years, have your canola crops lodged?	HEAVILY MODERATELY LIGHTLY	20 10 0
6. Do you see large swaths at harvest but get low yields?	YES NO	10 0
7. If you sprayed a stem rot fungicide, what were the results?	BETTER CROP NO DIFFERENCE	20 0

TOTAL FOR STAGE ONE _____

A high score of OVER 60 in the first stage, suggests that sclerotinia stem rot was probably present in previous years but may have gone undetected. Because of the past history of disease, the risk of a sclerotinia stem rot outbreak increases.

STAGE TWO - DISEASE DEVELOPMENT

8. At the beginning of the flowering period, walk through your crop during the late morning, are your boots and pant legs wet from the moisture present?	YES NO	20 10
9. Have you had wet weather in the immediate area within 2 to 3 weeks prior to flowering that allowed the soil to remain moist for extended periods?	YES NO	20 10
10. Do you believe weather will remain dry througout the flowering stage of the crop?	HIGHLY LIKELY MODERATLY LIKELY NOT LIKELY	0 10 20

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11. Where apothecia (tiny golf-tee shaped bodies which are produced singly or in clusters by the sclerotia) found in the field, around the field or in any neighbouring cereal* or canola fields where canola was growing in the previous 1 to 3 years? *Very heavy stands of cereals (e.g. 100+ bu/ac barley) will promote soil surface conditions similar to dense stands of canola. If such a barley crop follows a canola crop that had sclerotinia in previous years, germinated sclerotes will be found at the base of the canopy. Air-borne spores from these germinated sclerotes can move into nearby stands of canola.

YES	20
NO	10

TOTAL FOR STAGE TWO ______

A score of OVER 50 on the second stage plus a high score on the first stage indicates that the conditions for rapid disease development exist.

STAGE THREE - YIELD DATA

12. When you walk through your crop, how dense is the canopy? Very dense canopies may retain a permanent dew (moisture) on the lower stems even during prolonged dry periods of 2 to 3 weeks in July. Under these conditions, even though the soil is dry, surface moisture is present from the dew. Sclerotes at or on the surface under this very dense canopy, will germinate and form spore producing mushrooms (apothecia).

LIGHT	0
MODERATE	10
VERY DENSE	20

13. In previous years when your yield potential was 30+ bu/ac what were the actual yields? If you consistently achieve high yields, then your disease potential (actual levels) is low, your score would be zero.

GREATER THAN 30 bu/ac	0
20-30 bu/ac	20

14. What is the condition of your stand of canola in terms of height, vigor and uniformity?

EXCELLENT	20
GOOD	10
FAIR	5
POOR	0

15. What is the yield potential of the stand?

10-20 bu/ac	0
20-30 bu/ac	10
GREATER THAN 30 bu/ac	20

TOTAL FOR STAGE THREE _____

C

A score of OVER 50 in this last stage indicates the high yield potential of the crop. This combined with high scores in the first and second stages suggest that a protective fungicide application should be considered. Before purchasing the fungicide or contacting a commercial applicator, the actual economics should be worked out - will the profits gained from the increase in yield cover the cost of the fungicide and its application? With a score of less than 40 in the last stage, fungicidal application is not worth while.

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1. BLOOM STAGE IDENTIFICATION

If you have decided to apply fungicide for stem rot control after carefully answering the checklist questions, you must then decide when to spray. Sample several plants over the field and assess the number of open flowers. One way to check for bloom stage is to find the main stem, pull of the secondary branches, and count only the open flowers on the main stem. Generally, it takes a crop 2 to 4 days, depending on the weather, to move from first flower to 10 per cent bloom. The number of opened flowers will indicate the flowering stage (table 2).

TABLE 2 IDENTIFICATION OF FLOWERING STAGES OF CANOLA

Flowering Stage %	Number of Open Flowers on the Main Stem	
	Argentine Canola	Polish Canola
10	at least 10	6 - 7
20	14 - 16	10 - 12
30	at least 20	14 - 16

At 30 per cent bloom, a field of Polish canola may appear to be fully flowered due to the many open flowers on the developing secondary branches. At this stage of flowering, there will have been little petal fall unless there were some very hot days after first flower.

If your crop is in the 30 per cent flowering stage, there will be few pods set. The best control from fungicidal application will be achieved before the majority of petals begin to drop off and pods set. The fungicide provides protection to the plant for at least nine days when applied at the 20 to 30 per cent bloom stage. This period is usually when damaging infections are initiated and the crop canopy is still not too dense for the fungicide to penetrate to lower leaves. If there are more than four pods set on the main stem of the majority of plants, fungicide application may not be in time to be economical. Because of the very short time frame of 4 to 8 days from first flower to 20 to 30 per cent bloom, you should book a custom aerial applicator as early as possible unless you intend doing your own application.

FUNGICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF SCLEROTINIA STEM ROT IN CANOLA

1. BENLATE (benamyl)
Dupont

FORMULATIONS: Wettable Powder; 50%; 2 kg, 22.7 kg bags

WHEN USED: Apply only once per season. CANOLA: During 20-30% bloom. This will usually be 4 - 7 days after the first blossoms appear.

HOW TO APPLY:
WITH: Aircraft or Ground equipment
RATE: Use the higher rate under severe disease conditions (405 - 605 g/ac).
WATER VOLUME: Canola - Air: 16L/ac minimum. Ground 32: - 40L/ac.
NOZZLES: Hollow cone or disc core provide uniform coverage.

2. ROVRAL (iprodione)
May & Baker

FORMULATIONS: Wettable powder, 50% 1 kg, 8 kg bags. Flowable; Rovral flo; 250 g/L; 2 x 8 pack.

WHEN USED: Canola: Apply when the crop is at the 20 - 30% bloom stage. Infection normally occurs in July.

HOW TO APPLY
WITH: Aircraft or Ground equipment.
RATE: Use higher rates for fields with a history of heavy disease pressure or dense crop stands (400 - 600 g/ac or 800 - 1200 mL/ac).
WATER VOLUME: CANOLA - Air: 18 L/ac. Ground: 40 L/ac

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank Ian Parsons, Dupont Canada Ltd., Dr. Jill Thompson, University of Alberta and Robin Morall, University of Saskatchewan, Steve Slopek, Alberta Agriculture, Olds, Jill DeMulder, Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton for their input, discussions and advice which made it possible to assemble the information for this disease forecasting check list.

For further information contact:

Ieuan R. Evans 427-5350	OR	Phil Thomas 782-4641 or 423-4214

Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch, Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 22, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

FUEL DEMONSTRATION TRACTOR MAKES ROUNDS

Alberta Agriculture's farm tractor fuel efficiency demonstration will be making an appearance in districts from Breton to Wainwright in early July. The tractor has been specially equipped with an on-board computer to show how operating the tractor in different gears at different throttle can affect fuel use. Farmers are urged to contact their district agriculturist for demonstration location. The demonstration will be in the Breton district July 3, Lamont district July 6, Ryley district July 7, and in the Wainwright/Provost districts over three days July 8, 9, and 10.

CORNER THE EXPERTS AT BRETON FIELD DAY

Farmers with questions about soils, crop management and weed control can nab Alberta Agriculture specialists for answers, July 3 at the annual University of Alberta Breton Plots field day and soils clinic. Department representatives will be on hand throughout the day to assist any producers with problems. Soil tillage and tilth is the theme of this year's field day. Provincial and international experts will discuss soil compaction and whether it is a problem in Alberta. The field day at the plots, located just south of Breton, a community about 110 kilometres southwest of Edmonton, will get underway at 10 a.m. Lunch is available at the site. The field day will be held, rain or shine.

RANGE MANAGEMENT TOUR AT KINSELLA

Ranchers and range managers are reminded of the first range management field day, July 21, at the University of Alberta Ranch, at Kinsella. Organized by Dr. Arthur Bailey, professor of range ecology and management, the tour will show farmers different aspects of range management from brush control projects, to grazing treatments. The tour gets underway at 10 a.m. and lunch is available at the ranch. To register for the free tour or for more information phone 432-5338, 464-1813 or 336-2448.

(Cont'd)

CALGARY FIRM EXPANDS EMBRYO FACILITY

Assisted by nearly $1 million from a federal/provincial program, an Alberta bovine embryo research and processing company has opened its new world class facilities near Calgary. Alta Genetics Inc. accepted two offers of assistance totalling $935,547 toward development of its $3.7 million facility, seven kilometres northwest of the city. The company which was founded in 1984 will use the new centre to continue research, development and marketing of cattle embryos for local and international markets. The techniques developed at this facility will allow the firm to maintain its technological lead and may revolutionize the animal breeding industry. The company also hopes to employ an additional 11 people as a result of the project. The funding provided Alta Genetics under the Agricultural Processing and Marketing Subsidiary Agreement was announced by Alberta Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga and Federal Minister of State (small businesses and tourism) Bernard Valcourt. Since the agreement came into affect in February, 129 projects have received more than $10 million in funding, creating 1,250 new jobs for Albertans.

DELEGATES TO ATTEND BLUE LAKE CAMP

Two Alberta 4-H members from Crossfield and Chipman will be in Hinton in early July as delegates to the Blue Lake Youth Leadership Seminar at the Blue Lake Centre. Murray Aldred of Crossfield and Glen Eleniak of Chipman were named at the Alberta 4-H Selections program to represent the provincial organization at the seminar. Hosted by Alberta Recreation and Parks the seminar brings together members from many youth organizations to participate in sessions dealing with leadership skills, communication skills, outdoor recreation pursuits and action planning. The camp will be held July 5 to 10.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 29, 1987

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

June 29, 1987
For immediate release

New nutrition course available to Alberta schools

Starting this fall, many Grade 1 to 3 health teachers in Alberta will have new resource material available, as Alberta Agriculture launches it's contemporary nutrition education program.

As training is completed by Alberta Agriculture district home economists and specialists, teachers in both urban and rural school divisions across Alberta will be able to introduce their students to four new friends.

Chris, Mai Lin, Louis and Hanna are the fictional characters of "Club 4, Explore Nutritious Alberta" an informative and entertaining nutrition course, developed by the department, that blends childhood adventure with good eating habits.

The four friends one day decide to form a club they can all relate to. Since proper nutrition has been a topic in the classroom and they all enjoy snacks, they decide to build on that theme and form their own food club.

From there the story line explores a total of 30 different lessons, 10 for each grade level, showing the relationship between nutrition, food and agriculture.

The course material has just been published and is now being introduced to Alberta school divisions. Seminars and workshops will be conducted by Alberta Agriculture district home economists and regional food and nutrition specialists to explain to participating teachers how the material is to be used.

"The Club 4 education material supports the nutrition component of the mandatory Alberta Education health curriculum," says Aileen Whitmore, who chaired the committee which developed the new course material. "We feel Club 4 uses a very effective format to get across to children the message of making good food choices and developing good eating habits. Within that primary message the material also incorporates the role of agriculture in food and nutrition."

(Cont'd)

New nutrition course available to Alberta schools (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture has been involved for 15 years in delivering nutrition education material to schools. The Club 4 package is the latest update on nutrition information. A second package, for Grades 4 to 6 is expected to be ready for distribution in 1988.

Written on an all-Alberta theme, the Club 4 material uses reading and listening as well as student activities to explain nutrition aspects.

Along with the active story line, Grade 1 students for example can play "Breakfast Bingo" for a week which helps explain what foods make up a proper breakfast. Grade 2 activities include projects such as sorting food products from an average grocery bag into the four food groups and learning how much and what a youngster can buy with a dollar.

The Club 4 characters will take Grade 3 students on a trip to a farm, ranch and cheese plant as they "explore nutritious Alberta". Students will also be involved in projects such as planning a vegetable garden, learning about cultural and ethnic foods and menu planning.

"The course doesn't just talk about good nutrition, it also deals with lifestyle and how that influences what we eat," says Whitmore, the department's provincial food and nutrition specialist in Edmonton. "The course looks at the life of 10 fictional and real characters, ranging from a Calgary dancer, to a policewoman at Pincher Creek, to a farm couple from Cochrane, to a postal worker in Lloydminster and to a wheelchair athlete in Edmonton."

The Club 4 unit is teacher-ready, says the specialist. The binder comes complete with color photos and posters, and black and white printed material and drawings that can be photocopied for use in the classroom.

The materials were developed under the direction of a committee chaired by Whitmore, with Faye Douglas-Phillips, regional home economist in Barrhead and Linda St. Onge, food and nutrition specialist in Edmonton as members.

The manual was written by Brandywine Enterprises Ltd. and designed by Studio 3 Graphics Ltd. Whitmore also acknowledges the assistance provided by Alberta Agriculture staff and other volunteers.

For more information on the Club 4 education material, contact a district home economist or Whitmore in Edmonton, at 427-2412.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

June 29, 1987
For immediate release

Test your farm management skills

How do your farm management skills shape up?

Gerd Andres a farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture has put together a quick management test, which he says shouldn't be used to decide whether to stay in business, but can highlight management strengths.

"Progressive management on a farm or in any business is usually developed over time by daily habits, attitudes and knowledge," he says. "Improving business performance is a matter of recognizing one's management skills and working on improving them in your daily work activities."

"The following test, which is a version of one developed by Cornell University is designed as a self-assessment exercise. The questions highlight important roles managers play in organizing and controlling the farm business."

For each question, choose the most appropriate answer: always, usually, sometimes, never. Andres says be as honest as possible.

1) When I wake up in the morning, I know what my three main tasks for the day are.
2) I accomplish two to three of these tasks every day.
3) I get things done by delegating as much as possible to employees and family workers.
4) If a sales representative or visitor drops by when I am busy, I make it clear that I cannot be interrupted and schedule an appointment for a later time.
5) I write down and refer to my farm and personal long-term goals two or three times a year.
6) My day-to-day tasks reflect and support my long-term goals.
7) I involve my family and/or employees in many of the farm decisions.
8) I use farm financial records when making financial decisions.
9) I use herd and/or field crop records when making day-to-day production decisions.
10) I have identified at least three or four professionals (agri-business, government, etc.) to assist me with information on certain aspects of my business, and work with them as often as necessary to keep the business progressing smoothly.

(Cont'd)

Having classified these 10 questions, place the following numerical value beside the answered question: always = 5, usually = 3, sometimes = 1, never = 0.

Add the values to arrive at a total score. If your score is above 35, your management skills are well tuned. If your score ranges between 25 to 35, your management skills are comparable to most people. If your score is below 25, your management skills may need improvement.

According to Andres, this test should not be taken seriously in terms of ability to run a farm or business, but may indicate individual strengths and weaknesses when using all production, financial, and human resources available in making decisions.

Anyone wanting to improve management skills, can investigate programs offered by many colleges, universities and adult educating programs. Alberta Agriculture has information on many of the production, financial and human relation courses offered.

"One course that may interest the farm community in particular is the popular farm "Gear Up Financially" course offered by Alberta Agriculture," says Andres.

More information on this course can be obtained from your local Alberta Agriculture district office or the Farm Business Management Branch, P.O. Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0, phone: 556-4240.

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Contact: Gerd Andres
556-4277

June 29, 1987
For immediate release

Top U.S. collegiate judge to tour Alberta livestock events

Alberta purebred livestock will receive top billing in July, during a visit to the province by a University of California student.

Tracy Vincent, 24, of Fresno, will be participating in several major livestock events as part of the prize she received for winning top honors at the 1987 National Western Stock Show in Denver.

Tracy Vincent, receives her "Tour of Alberta Award" from Ken Lang of Olds, vice president of ACABA

(Cont'd)

The trip, sponsored and coordinated by the Alberta/Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) is intended to increase Alberta's profile in the promotion of livestock genetics.

The association works with the support of Alberta Agriculture's market development division. The division plays a major role in arranging Alberta participation at livestock shows and exhibitions thoughout North America.

According to Ken Lang of Olds, vice president of ACABA, the trip to Alberta is a highly regarded annual event with contestants as well as stock show officials.

"Denver recognizes the merits of such a program, and we are very hopeful that there will soon be a reciprocal program for an Alberta student", says Lang.

Vincent was named top overall individual in collegiate judging at the Denver show. Some 55 teams, each with five members and a coach, were required to judge classes of hogs, horses, sheep, beef steers, and beef heifers.

Vincent will tour Alberta July 10 to 20, with stops at the Calgary Stampede, the Bashaw Provincial 4-H Beef Heifer Show, the Red Deer Westerner, Olds College, and Klondike Days in Edmonton.

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Contact: Elton R. Dunk
427-4241

June 29, 1987
For immediate release

Farming for the Future conference set for March

The third Farming for the Future conference on agricultural research will be held in Calgary in March.

The upcoming conference will highlight the theme of agricultural research aimed at reducing production costs, improving product quality and enhancing the competitive ability of Alberta producers and processors.

Farming for the Future is an Alberta Agriculture research program funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. Since it was established in 1977, about $41.6 million has been used to fund more than 900 agricultural research and demonstration projects.

The March 18 Calgary conference, to be held at the Marlborough Inn, will focus on the practical results of these projects.

Two previous conferences in 1984 and 1986 were held in Edmonton.

For more information contact Yilma Teklemariam at Alberta Agriculture's research division, in Edmonton at 427-1956.

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Contact: Yilma Teklemariam
427-1956

June 29, 1987
For immediate release

Farm families invited on safety hike

Alberta farm families are being urged to take a hike - for safety - in late July to determine if hazards exist around the farmstead.

The first farm safety hike is being organized for July 26 as a kick off to Farm Safety Week.

A project of the Women of Unifarm and Alberta Agriculture farm safety program, the day is intended to make the entire farm family aware of safety problems and procedures.

Using a guide available from district home economists and Women of Unifarm representatives, the farm couple and their children are urged to get out as a group that day and make a physical inspection of key points around the farm.

Families completing the hike can receive a magnetic plaque recognizing their participation.

"We feel its a good way to get the whole family involved in the spirit of farm safety," says Jacqueline Galloway, of Fort Saskatchewan, promotions coordinator for Women of Unifarm.

"By making it an event - something to actually get out and do - we hope it makes all family members aware of what safety features are in place and point out any safety features that are lacking."

The 12-point checklist looks at safety aspects around the house, barn, fuel-storage area, shop, farm yard, grain storage facilities, wells and dugouts, chemical storage area, machinery, livestock, the garden and even the family members.

The hike begins with the people aspects of safety which checks to see if anyone wears jewelry such as rings, watches and chains while working around moving machinery, determines if anyone has a fear or phobia about certain situations, and assesses abilities such as who can apply first aid, swim, operate a tractor, phone for emergency help and switch off power sources.

(Cont'd)

From there the hike tours the key areas looking for safety features such as working fire extinquishers and smoke detectors, as well as for hazards such as worn equipment parts that could be a problem.

"As familiar as farm families are with their livestock, machinery and buildings, we feel that taking a specific hike to look at these safety points will be benefical to all family members," says Galloway.

As the different checkpoints on the hike are completed, one of the children can color in a chart showing the progress of the tour. They are urged to send in the completed chart and receive a small plaque acknowledging participation.

For more information or a copy of the safety checklist contact any Alberta Agriculture district home economist or Women of Unifarm representative.

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Contact:	Jacqueline Galloway 998-0701	Eric Jones 427-2186

June 29, 1987
For immediate release

Check stored grain for insect pests

Farmers should make a thorough inspection of grain stored in bins to make sure insects aren't taking their toll, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Art Tellier, an entomology technologist with the department in Brooks says insects can show up at any time from early spring to late fall and cause a great deal of damage.

"Insect problems and spoilage are usually worse in grain stored with a high moisture content," says Tellier, who works at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center. "But even well-dried grain can be susceptable to pest damage.

"Especially now with the warm weather back, farmers should check their grain bins for any sign of insects and spoilage and take immediate action if a problem is discovered.

"As well, the interior of empty grains bins, especially the older wooden type, should be thoroughly cleaned and sprayed or painted with an insecticide to make sure insect problems are checked."

Tellier says one of the first indications of insect or spoilage problems with stored grain is a crust of grain at the peak of the grain pile.

The crusted grain should be removed and the type of insects found properly identified.

"It is important that farmers have the pest identified," he says. "Proper identification allows the producer to take the correct control measures. Some insects are so similar in appearance that it is very difficult to tell them apart. As an example, the physical difference between the red flour beetle and the confused flour beetle is very minor, and yet there is a drastic difference in their ability to cause damage to grain."

The technologist also says there is a difference between insects that feed on grain, and fungus-eating insects that live on spoiled grain mould.

(Cont'd)

Check stored grain for insect pests (cont'd)

"Insects found in stored grain are usually either primary grain feeders such as the rusty grain beetle, saw-toothed grain beetle or red flour beetle or one of several species of fungus-feeding insects," says Tellier. "Fungus-feeding insects are eating mould and are not damaging the stored grain. They can be eliminated by turning and, if necessary, drying the grain. Fumigation is not recommended for the control of fungus feeding pests."

He says primary grain feeders are more difficult to control because they can survive in sound, dry grain. At this time of year, fumigation is the only effective method of controlling this group of grain insects.

The technologist says farmers should check grain bins looking for crusted grain, a musty, mouldy odor, the actual insects, their larvae, or broken grain kernels. If any of these are found it indicates there could be problems throughout the bin.

A sample of the pest should be taken to the nearest Alberta Agriculture district office or any of the four regional pest labs in Brooks, Olds, Vegreville and Fairview, or the crop protection branch office in Edmonton, for identification.

Details on monitoring and control of stored grain insects is outlined in the Agriculture Canada publication (No. 1595), "Insects and Mites in Farm-Stored Grain in the Prairie Provinces".

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Contact: Art Tellier
362-3391

June 29, 1987
For immediate release

Wilf Cody named Edson DA

A long-time Alberta Agriculture staff member and well-travelled specialist has been named district agriculturist in Edson.

Wilf Cody, who is now serving as DA in Stony Plain, will be assuming his new post July 15 taking over from Dan Peters who recently retired after 27 years with the department.

Cody had previously served as a DA in Vermilion, Fairview and Lloydminster. His appointment was announced by J.B. Tackaberry, director of Alberta Agriculture's northwest region.

Cody graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1954 with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture. He began his career with Saskatchewan department of municipal affairs, where he worked for nine years.

In 1963 he moved to Vancouver Island, where he managed his own nursery operation for two years.

His career in agricultural extension started in 1965 when he joined Alberta Agriculture staff as a district agriculturist. He also served to two foreign agricultural assignments - one in Indonesia from 1973 to 1976 and one in Ghana from 1981 to 1982.

Cody is married and has four children.

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Contact: J.B. Tackaberry
674-8264

June 29, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE NEARS

Alberta farm women interested in attending the annual Alberta Women's Week Conference should have their registrations submitted before July 6. Because of possible postal service disruption, Kathy Lowther, district home economist in Vulcan, says women should hand deliver registration forms to the nearest district home economist office. Lowther says although the 57th annual conference at Olds College is filling up, there is still room for delegates. The July 20 to 22 conference will feature several key speakers on topics relevant to the needs and concerns facing farm women. There are also several select-a-sessions ranging from organizing family financing to fitness programs. Full registration is $20 per person, although the conference this year is offering a special. A group of four neighboring farm women or friends can make a joint registration for a total of $60. Accommodation for the three-day conference is also available at Olds College. Registration receipts will be available at the college during conference registration. For more information contact your near district home economist.

TRACTOR DEMONSTRATION MOVES TO VEGREVILLE/LLOYDMINSTER AREA

Alberta Agriculture's farm tractor fuel efficiency demonstration will be making appearances in three districts in mid-July. The tractor has been specially equipped with an on-board computer to show how operating the tractor in different gears at different throttle can affect fuel use. Farmers are urged to contact their district agriculturist for demonstration locations. The demonstration will be in the Lloydminster district July 14, Lamont district July 15 and Vegreville district July 16. Producers should watch for postponement notices in the event of poor weather.

(Cont'd)

SUNFLOWER TOUR PLANNED JULY 8

Existing and prospective sunflower growers are invited on the Alberta Sunflower Tour July 8, to have a look at how the special crop is produced. Leaving from the Tom Droog farm, seven miles south of Highway 3 on the Foremost Road, tour members will have a look at dryland and irrigated sunflower varieties, sunflower disease control projects and take a tour of the recently 40 Mile Coulee Dam. An evening barbecue is sponsored by Elanco and Alberta Sunflower Seeds Limited. For more information or to pre-register contact Ruth McMorris in Bow Island at 545-2233, the Taber DA office at 223-9611 or Tom Droog at Bow Island at 545-2560.

THE 4-H GARDEN CLUB OF THE NORTH

One of Alberta's newest 4-H clubs is just about off the provincial map. La Crete, a small community just south of Fort Vermilion has recently formed a garden club under the leadership of Margaret Driedger. Alberta Agriculture regional 4-H specialist, Janet Kerr, in Fairview, says the cooler, northern conditions, delayed the start up of the La Crete club's projects, but members are confident they will be harvesting vegetables and flowers in time for their achievement day this fall. La Crete is about 110 miles south of the Alberta/North West Territories border.

BRETON FIELD DAY GOES RAIN OR SHINE

The 57th annual Breton Plots field day will be held July 3, rain or shine. Organized by the University of Alberta, the field day provides Alberta producers and opportunity to see some of the latest research work in soil and crop managment. This year's program will feature a discussion on soil compaction and whether it is problem in Alberta. The field day gets underway at 9:30 a.m.. Lunch is available on the field plots site, just south and east of the community of Breton, which is 110 kilometres southwest of Edmonton. For more information contact the university department of soil science at 432-3242.

(Cont'd)

UNIVERSITY GARDEN COURSE GOES COMMERCIAL

The University of Alberta is making its home gardening course available for retail sale. The popular home study program, produced by the the university faculty of extension may soon be appearing on the shelves of horticultural and gardening centres. The U of A has sold more than 6,000 copies of the course directly to home gardens in the three prairie provinces. The three-color, 628 page, self-contained course carries more than 490 graphics. It has been considered a good value at the retail price of $35. Under the new marketing venture, greenhouses and other gardening retail outlets will be able to obtain copies of the course at wholesale prices for resale to the public. For orders of 10 or more, the wholesale price is $25 each. For more information on the course call the university at 432-3035 or write, Home Gardening Course, University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension, Room 238 Corbett Hall, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G4.

HORT WEEK DEADLINE, JULY 17

Only a couple weeks are left to register for any of the 22 courses being offered this year at the annual Hort Week at Olds College, July 27 to 31. The courses offered to home gardeners as well as commercial growers and florists cover a wide range of topics from design work to horticultural judging and from controlling insects to setting up a hobby greenhouse. Deadline for registration is July 17. For more information contact the Olds College department of extension services at 556-8344.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 6, 1987

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For immediate release

This Week

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

July 6, 1987
For immediate release

Concern mounts over soil moisture situation

About two-thirds of the crop and pastureland in Alberta needs a good, long, soaking rain.

The flag is up warning that soil moisture conditions are worsening as persistent winds and continued hot, dry weather combine to draw whatever early spring moisture there was, out of the ground.

Alberta Agriculture officials in Edmonton say the moisture situation has been declining since early May and only a steady rain over two or three days will help turn things around.

Although there are areas of exception, spokesmen say there is "general concern" of widespread crop failure.

David Nielson, head of the department's farm water management section in Edmonton says the very southern part of the province, an area roughly south of Highway 3, has fairly good moisture conditions after recent rains. However, an area around Pincher Creek that missed the rains is quite dry.

North of Highway 3, through the south-central, central, north-central and northeast regions of Alberta, conditions are generally poor.

The area north and west of Edmonton, and part of the Peace River region, have fairly good ground moisture.

The dry conditions have either caused very patchy germination, stopped plant growth or forced some crops to begin maturing early, in the worst hit areas.

"The winter crops in particular are in terrible shape," says Nielson. "There is no moisture to fill the kernels on plants that are already heading out. Yields in many areas could be from 30 to 50 per cent of normal.

"On the positive side there is generally no immediate problem for domestic and livestock water supplies, except for a small area right around Calgary, where stockwater sources have disappeared. Most other areas report a good supply of stockwater."

(Cont'd)

Keir Packer, the department crop statistician who prepares the twice-monthly Alberta Agriculture Crop Report, says the 1987 crop year pattern is developing similar to 1985.

"The fall rains, which caused problems with harvest, actually put us in a good soil moisture position this spring," he says. "Conditions were rated good to excellent for planting.

"But, the southern and east-central part of the province, from Red Deer south to Lethbridge, hasn't had any significant moisture since late May. The area north of Red Deer had that May snow storm, which added about 50 to 75 mm of precipitation to the soil. However, the benefit of that moisture is quickly disappearing. As each day without precipitation passes, the area of concern grows."

Precipitation from April 1 to June 17 was as low as 17 per cent of normal in the Pincher Creek area and about 30 per cent of normal in many other parts of the province.

Packer says although there was a livestock feed surplus heading into spring, he expects it may disappear as pasture and hayland conditions deteriorate.

He says many livestock producers already are assessing feed requirements and are making arrangements to secure feed supplies for this coming fall and winter.

"If conditions continue, a lot of farmers will be buying hay," he says. "This will probably be good news to farmers producing forage under irrigation."

Nielson says the moisture stress also increases concern of soil erosion. He says with reduced plant growth, there will be reduced crop residue to protect the soil from the effects of water and wind erosion.

As well this year more acres of farmland, which are usually rented out for crop production, are sitting idle.

"These factors could combine to make much more farmland susceptible to erosion problems," he says. "The soil could really take a beating."

(Cont'd)

Concern mounts over soil moisture situation (cont'd)

Nielson says although irrigation district reservoirs are now full the water level of most creeks and rivers which feed the reservoirs, is already declining. He says there was a below normal snowpack in the mountains last winter, and the melt and run-off occurred about three weeks earlier than normal.

"Many of those water sources are in a late-July condition right now," he says.

The department will continue to closely monitor moisture conditions.

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Contact:	David Nielson	Keir Packer
	422-4385	427-4011

July 6, 1987
For immediate release

Custom rate directories available

Farmers looking for the latest information on how much custom farming services costs and where to find some of the contractors providing these services, should obtain copies of three updated custom rates publications produced by Alberta Agriculture.

The "Directory of Custom Operators in Alberta - 1987" the "Custom Rates Survey Summary - 1987" and "Farm Machinery Costs As A Guide To Custom Rates - 1987", are all available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the farm business management branch in Olds.

The "Directory of Custom Operators in Alberta - 1987", (Agdex 825-17), lists the custom operator's name, town, telephone number and type of custom service offered.

The directory should benefit both the farmer and custom operators, says Garth Nickorick, a farm management economist with the department in Olds.

"The operators listed submitted their names voluntarily and their listing does not indicate a recommendation by Alberta Agriculture," he says. "A 1988 directory will be published and operators who want to be listed, including those in the 1987 directory, must contact the farm business management branch by December, 1987."

The "Custom Rates Survey Summary - 1987", (Agdex 825-9), publishes the results of the survey of custom and rental rates conducted by Alberta Agriculture each year. This publication is a reflection of the rates others are paying or charging for the listed services.

The rates are listed according to the six agricultural regions in Alberta and are given as a range as well as the most common prices for 1986. These rates are intended as a guide only, and are not to be interpreted as the rates you should charge or pay, says Nickorick.

"Farm Machinery Costs As A Guide To Custom Rates - 1987", (Agdex 825-4), is available for custom operators who want to compare their charges and costs. For farmers hiring custom operators, it gives a reference for estimating costs for the next season.

(Cont'd)

Custom rate directories available (cont'd)

The guide calculates the cost for different sized machinery used in major field and livestock operations based on fixed costs (depreciation, investment cost, insurance, housing) and variable costs (fuel, lubrication, labor and repairs). As in previous years, this publication is intended as a guide which may be adjusted for individual circumstances to determine actual costs.

These publications may be obtained from Alberta Agriculture district offices, the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0; or Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
(403) 556-4247

July 6, 1987
For immediate release

New directors announced for three agricultural regions

Alberta Agriculture assistant deputy minister W.J. Dent is pleased to announce the appointment of directors for Alberta Agriculture regional offices in Fairview, Airdrie and Lethbridge.

Don Young will be taking over as director of the Southern Region in Lethbridge, while Glen Werner will become director of the South Central Region in Airdrie, and John Knapp will become director of the Peace River Region in Fairview.

The postings for the three long-time Alberta Agriculture staff members, reflect the combination of a transfer and promotions.

Don Young, who is presently director of the Peace River Region in Fairview, will be transferring to the department's southern region headquartered in Lethbridge to take over duties there following the retirement earlier this year of Eric Horton.

After graduating from the University of Alberta with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture, Mr. Young began his career with the department as a district agriculturist. He served as a DA between 1969 and 1974 in the Strathcona County and Leduc offices.

He served as senior DA in Leduc and Wetaskiwin offices between 1974 and 1981, before accepting a position with headquarters in Edmonton, as assistant director, extension.

Mr. Young left his Edmonton post in 1983 to become director of the Peace River Region in Fairview.

He has also been active member of professional associations including the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA), the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Canadian Society of Extension (CSE).

He has held executive positions in these organizations, and is currently national council representative with the CSE and is on the AIA executive.

His Lethbridge appointment becomes effective August 1, 1987.

(Cont'd)

New directors announced (cont'd)

Glen Werner, senior district agriculturist in Stettler is being promoted to director of South Central region headquartered in Airdrie, taking over from Sherry Clark who retired earlier this month.

Mr. Werner received his bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan in 1973. Recently returning to studies he earned a master's of agriculture degree from the University of Alberta in 1987.

He began his career with the department as district agriculturist in Sedgewick, serving there from 1973 to 1980, when he moved to Stettler to become senior DA.

Mr. Werner is married and has three children.

His appointment becomes effective July 20, 1987.

John Knapp, currently provincial sheep specialist in Airdire, is being promoted to director of the Peace Region in Fairview, filling the position vacated by Don Young.

After graduating from the University of Alberta with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture in 1977, Mr. Knapp began his career with Alberta Agriculture as a district agriculturist.

He served as a DA in Sedgewick and Cardston between 1977 and 1981, before accepting a position as provincial sheep specialist with the beef cattle and sheep branch in Airdrie.

He is married with four children.

His appointment becomes effective, August 1, 1987.

"The interests of the agricultural communities within these regions will be well served by these professionals," says Mr. Dent. "They bring to their new postings a wide range of education and experience as well as a fundamental understanding of the needs and problems of producers."

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For more information contact:

W.J. Dent	Don Young	Glen Werner	John Knapp
427-2440	835-2291	742-7500	948-8511

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the June 18 Tax Reform package, Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson proposed major changes to the present accounting and tax system for farmers.

In the initial review, the farm community appeared to be left relatively unscathed in the tax reform process, however, after carefully reading the detailed procedures, the impact of the proposed changes were indeed significant, says Alberta Agriculture specialist, Merle Good.

The three most important issues contained in the tax reform package pertaining to agriculture are:

a) the $500,000 capital gains exemption
b) the new accounting system to determine your taxable income and
c) the definition of what constitutes full-time farming.

In the first part of a three-part feature, prepared by the farm tax specialist with the farm business management branch in Olds, Good takes a look at the issue of the $500,000 capital gains exemption. The second article deals with farm income and losses and the third with the definition of full-time farming.

July 6, 1987
For immediate release

TAX REFORM AND AGRICULTURE - PART 1

A look at the capital gains exemption

By Merle Good
Farm Tax Specialist

After the announcement by the Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson that farmers and small business corporations will be eligible for the $500,000 Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption, a sigh of relief was heard throughout the prairies.

Many farm producers were concerned that the $500,000 exemption would be limited or eliminated in the tax reform package. Essentially, the three major changes proposed to the tax treatment of capital gains are as follows:

a) The maximum lifetime exemption will be limited to a $100,000 for all property other than qualified farm property and shares of small business corporations.

b) The proportion of gain to be included in taxpayers' income will be increased from 1/2 to 2/3 in 1988 and to 3/4 in 1990.

c) The definition for qualified farm property has been changed for property acquired after June 17, 1987.

To be qualified farm property, the property has to be owned for at least two years by the taxpayer, his spouse, or a child and in those two years, one member of the family must qualify as a full-time farmer.

(Cont'd)

In other words, gross farm revenues must exceed that person's income from all other sources. If this qualification requirement is not met, an alternative one exists where throughout the two-year period, the property can be used by a family farm partnership or family farm corporation of the taxpayer, his spouse or child.

Although there appears to be no income test on the second qualification rule, the definition of a family farm corporation or partnership will most likely require the same income test.

Remember, that if you presently own farmland, the original capital gains rules still apply. These rules state that in order to have qualified farm property, the property must have been farmed in the year of disposition by a family member or a family farm partnership or corporation or farmed for at least five years by any of the above.

Although the $500,000 capital gains exemption still applies, the increase from 1/2 to 2/3 in 1988 to 3/4 in 1990 for the rate of taxable capital gain added to income does indeed increase the potential minimum tax liability. The following is a quick example of a farmer who receives a $500,000 capital gain, when disposing of qualified farm property in 1987 versus 1990.

MINIMUM TAX LIABILITY

	Year of Sale 1987	Year of Sale 1990
Capital Gain	500,000	500,000
Taxable Cap.Gain	250,000 (50%)	375,000 (75%)
Less:		
Minimum Exemption	40,000	40,000
Min. Tax. Income	210,000	335,000
Tax Rate 25%	$ 52,000	83,700
Net After Tax:	$447,500	$416,200

(Cont'd)

A look at the capital gains exemption (cont'd)

As can be seen from this example, by increasing the taxable portion from 50 per cent to 75 per cent results in a significant minimum tax increase of $31,700 or a 60 per cent increase.

Before panic sets in, remember, that there exists a seven year carry forward for any minimum tax liability that exceeds the calculated regular tax in the year of sale. Furthermore, there appears to not have been any change to the use of the capital gains reserve to offset the minimum tax liability.

Specifically, a farmer may minimize the effect of the minimum tax liability by selling property over time, spreading the proceeds over a five or ten year period and thus reduce or possibly eliminate the minimum tax through a capital gain reserve provision.

As these comments are based on proposals only and not even draft legislation, an accountant should definitely be consulted before any strategies are implemented.

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(Merle Good is a farm tax specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds).

Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

July 6, 1987
For immediate release

TAX REFORM AND AGRICULTURE - PART 2

The beginning of the end for farm taxpayers

By Merle Good
Farm Tax Specialist

One of the major recommendations for farmers in Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson's tax reform package, involves an overhaul of the present accounting and tax system for farmers.

It appears that the farm community will be faced with modified accounting rules whereby the previous cash base accounting system will be required to be modified to a simplified accrual basis. Farmers will still maintain the benefit of cash accounting for the purposes of reducing positive farm income for tax purposes, however, losses will be accounted for on the simplified accrual basis.

To help understand this rule it is important to understand the difference between cash base accounting and accrual accounting.

CASH BASE ACCOUNTING

Under this method amounts actually received in the year are included in income and deductions are claimed for those expenses which were actually paid for in the year. This does not include capital items. No accounting has to be made for inventories or accounts receivable, but neither can a deduction be taken for any unpaid bills (accounts payable) at the end of the year.

ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING

Under this method, income is reported in the year it is earned, regardless of when payment is received, and expenses are deductible in the year in which they are incurred, whether paid or not. As well, changes in current inventory items such as livestock, crops and feeds are included in determining gross income on the accrual basis.

(Cont'd)

With this description of the two methods, it is apparent that filing on the cash basis for farmers is a preferred method, as the purchases of inventory such as fertilizer, fuel and livestock can be used as an expense even though the asset purchased has not been utilized or counted as inventory.

TAX REFORM CHANGES

It appears that in the income tax reform measures brought out June 18, 1987 that all farmers (not just part-time farmers) will be required to file on a modified accrual basis and then make cash base adjustments in order to determine their taxable position.

Originally it appeared that a farmer would be able to keep his books on a cash base system until a farm loss was created. If a farm loss was created an accrual adjustment would be made in order to meet the requirement that farm losses must be accounted for on the accrual basis only.

However, after analyzing the information, it does appear that all farmers, as stated above, must calculate their income on the accrual basis and make "cash base adjustments" to these calculations.

The following is an example that illustrates this concept:

CASH BASIS (old system)

	1988	1989	
Income	150,000	200,000	50,000 cattle sold
Expenses	(90,000)	(90,000)	
C.C.A.	(20,000)	(20,000)	
	40,000	90,000	
Cattle Purchase	50,000	0	
Taxable	(10,000)	90,000	

ACCRUAL BASIS (new system)

Cash/Income Loss	(10,000)		90,000	
- Opening Inventory	200,000		250,000	
+ Closing Inventory	250,000		200,000	50,000 cattle sold
Accrual Income	40,000		40,000	
Less:Adjusted Cash Base	40,000	*Add:	40,000	Cash Base Adjustment
Taxable:	0		80,000	

(Cont'd)

As can be seen from this example, any cash base adjustment claimed in one year will be included in the following year's income. It soon becomes apparent that the one major objective of this new filing system for farmers is for Revenue Canada to be able to determine the benefit of cash base accounting vs. proper accrual accounting. By keeping track of the cash base adjustments on a yearly basis, this difference will be highlighted when a farmer files his tax return.

FIVE-YEAR BLOCK AVERAGE

The five-year block average provision will be phased out under tax reform. The phase-out period means that farmers can complete any five-year block period started in 1987 or earlier. In other words, 1987 is the last year that a five-year block average can be commenced from thus making 1991 the last year contained in a five-year block average.

RACEHORSES AND SHOW ANIMALS

In the reform package, the purchase of horses for racing and show animals will be treated as a special capital property depreciable at 20 per cent per year on a declining balance.

When sold, sales received over and above the written down cost will be fully included in income. In other words, there is a type of recaptured capital cost allowance provision for this type of livestock purchase. This provision parallels in some manner the U.S. rules regarding the purchase of breeding livestock. The papers do not define what a show animal is and therefore it is impossible to determine how these rules will apply to the purebred livestock industry.

(Cont'd)

These modified rules for farm accounting will become effective for any fiscal period starting after June 17, 1987 and ending after 1987. For most farmers this means that 1988 is the first year that these rules will apply.

In some tax advisor's opinion, these changes in the cash base accounting system is truly the "beginning of the end" for the cash base system for farm taxpayers.

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(Merle Good, is a farm tax specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.)

Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

July 6, 1987
For immediate release

TAX REFORM AND AGRICULTURE - PART 3

Losing your losses

By Merle Good
Farm Tax Specialist

The tax reform proposed June 18, by Michael Wilson, the Federal Finance Minister, recommends a new system for dealing with farm losses.

The new system states that farmers will have to report on the accrual basis of accounting but a cash base adjustment will maintain the benefit of cash accounting for the purposes of reducing positive farm income for tax purposes.

However, losses will be accounted for on a simplified accrual basis.

Because the cash to accrual accounting change has already been discussed in a previous article it is sufficient to say that the classic tax strategy of purchasing livestock to offset farm income will still remain. However, if a cash loss is created, this loss will be disallowed, as accrual accounting adjusts income for inventory purchases.

WHAT IS A FARMER?

In order to deduct any farm losses, it is necessary to define the requirements of what constitutes a farmer. The requirements are that a farmer, must be able to incur at least three out of seven years a farm profit (determined on an accrual basis).

If this test is not met a taxpayer is deemed not to be a qualifying farmer. There is however, an overriding provision whereby a farmer's qualifying status can be established, if the taxpayer provides relevant data to show that on a long term basis, their farm operation will eventually be able to meet the profitability test.

If the profitability test is not met, all the losses are disallowed. The farm losses disallowed will however, be eligible for a three year carry-back and a 10 year carry-forward period to be deducted against any "FARM INCOME".

(Cont'd)

If the profitability test has been met then the second objective test determines if the farm losses will be unrestricted or limited to $15,000.

WHAT IS A PART-TIME FARMER?

Under the new definitions, once the farmer has met the profitability test, and gross farm revenues exceed net farm income from all other sources in at least three out of the same seven years, the farmer is defined as a full-time farmer.

As a full-time farmer, no restriction exists on the amount of loss that can be written off against other income. If this test is not met, then a farmer will be deemed to be a part-time farmer and restricted to a $15,000 limit.

Under the part-time farmer, $15,000 limit, if the current farm loss exceeds this restriction, these losses can be carried back three years and forward 10 years and be deducted against future farm income.

TRANSITION RULES

Since the profitability requirement test for a farmer depends upon a seven-year time frame, there is a necessary transition period in order to implement the rules.

The following tables indicate the number of years that a profit has to be incurred in order to meet the test for a farmer and determine if a taxpayer is a full-time or part-time farmer.

PROFIT TEST FOR DETERMINING DEDUCTIBILITY OF FARM LOSSES

Year in question	Reference years	Number of profitable years required
1992	'88, '89, '90, '91, '92	1 of 5
1993	'88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93	2 of 6
1994	'88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94	3 of 7

(Cont'd)

GROSS FARM REVENUE TEST FOR DETERMINING IF FARM LOSSES ARE FULLY DEDUCTIBLE

Year in question	Reference years	Number of years required where gross-farm revenue exceeded net income from other sources
1988	'86, '87, '88,	1 of 3
1989	'86, '87, '88, '89	1 of 4
1990	'86, '87, '88, '89, '90	2 of 5
1991	'86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91	2 of 6
1992	'86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92	3 of 7

From these tables, it is imperative that at least one out of the first five years ('88 - '92) be a profitable year, otherwise the taxpayer will be deemed not to be in the business of farming.

As can be seen, the details are very complex and will require farmers to consult with their accountants on a regular basis as each year must be analyzed with the pertinent information carried forward, to keep track of where you are in the transition rules.

The agriculture industry over the past few years has been asking for change to Section 31 to clarify the confusion that exists in the present legislation, dealing with part-time and full-time farmers. Furthermore, farm organizations desired that the rules be modified so that agriculture is not deemed to be a type of tax shelter where wealthy off-farm investors could purchase farm land and write-off their losses against their personal income and doing by so, obtain an after-tax advantage.

(Cont'd)

With these changes to the Section 31 legislation, the tax shelter advantage of agriculture has been greatly diminished and the subjective definition of who qualifies as a farmer (reasonable expectation of profit) has been replaced with an objective mathematical test (where an accrued profit has to be incurred in at least three out of seven years).

Although these rules are welcomed, to eliminate the tax shelter incentive in agriculture, and to define what a farmer is, as mentioned earlier, the actual means provided through this tax reform proposal could hurt developing farmers that are trying (through off-farm income) to increase their livestock base and their farm's viability.

In essence, by trying to plug a certain loophole for the minority, Michael Wilson has restricted the availability of a type of equity financing (off-farm income) to be injected into farming to maintain viability and to establish legitimate beginning farmers.

How the agricultural community will align their opinion on this issue of accrual accounting and the farm loss rules will be very interesting, as these are definitely important and controversial issues in our industry.

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(Merle Good is a farm tax specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.)

Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

July 6, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

NEW DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTED IN TABER

Jack Payne, who has served as Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist in Claresholm has been appointed DA in Taber. Payne graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1983 with bachelor of science degrees in agriculture and biology. He worked for Cyanamid Canada before joining the department. He has been DA in Claresholm since 1985. He replaces Carol Rex who resigned her post in Taber earlier this year to move to Saskatchewan.

FUEL DEMONSTRATION PLANNING TWO HILLS/LAC LA BICHE TOUR

Alberta Agriculture's farm tractor fuel efficiency demonstration will be making appearances in districts northeast of Edmonton this month. The tractor has been specially equipped with an on-board computer to show how operating the tractor in different gears at different throttle can affect fuel use. Farmers are urged to contact their district agriculturist for demonstration locations. The demonstration will be in the Two Hills district, July 21, the Smoky Lake district, July 23, the Bonnyville district July 29 and the Lac La Biche district July 30. A planned demonstration in the St. Paul district has been cancelled. Farmers should watch for postponement notices in the event of poor weather.

RANGE MANAGEMENT TOUR AT KINSELLA

Ranchers and range managers are advised it will be a day well spent, if they participate in the first range management field day, July 21, at the University of Alberta ranch, at Kinsella. Organized by Dr. Arthur Bailey, professor of range ecology and management, the tour will show farmers different aspects of range management from brush control projects, to grazing treatments. The tour gets underway at 10 a.m. and lunch is available at the ranch. The program will be cancelled if the weather is bad. To register for the free tour or for more information phone 432-5338, 464-1813 or 336-2448.

(Cont'd)

4-H MEMBERS TO ATTEND MICHIGAN CAMP

Two Alberta 4-H leaders will be in Michigan in early August to attend the Danforth 4-H Leadership Camp. James Foster of Erskine and Tracy Wilson of Wembley will be among 18 other Canadian 4-H members who will join about 100 4-H leaders from across the United States in a program of extensive leadership theory and practice, personal growth and enrichment, group dynamics and spiritual awareness. The program will deal with decision making, self-understanding, social awareness, communication, values and responsibility and allow delegates to learn more about themselves. Foster and Wilson were named delegates at the Alberta 4-H Selections program earlier this year. Their trip is sponsored by the Canadian 4-H council.

WHAT CAUSES THAT "BUMPY LAWN"

Homeowners wondering what causes a "bumpy lawn" should look for at least two different causes, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Brooks. Cathy Linowski, information officer with the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center, says ants and earthworms are the leading causes for the small bumps in a lawn. She says both can be controlled with chemicals, but she advises they may do far more good than harm. Although ants live in nests in the soil and may form large mounds, they can be helpful to a lawn by eating decaying organic matter and harmful insects. Linowski says chemicals can be used to control ants, but only if they are a real problem. Earthworms burrow through the soil, feeding on organic matter and dead leaves and stems at the soil surface. They decompose thatch, mix organic material through the soil and aerate the soil with their tunneling. Again the spokesman says they can be chemically controlled, but only if they are causing a serious problem.

Coming Agricultural Events

Alberta Sunflower Producers Tour
Droog Farm
Bow Island..July 8
Blair Roth - Lethbridge 381-5127

Alberta Safflower Producers Tour
Kubik Farm
Wrentham..July 16
Blair Roth - Lethbridge 381-5127

Pulse Crops Mini-Tour
Picture Butte..July 17
Blair Roth - Lethbridge 381-5127

Alberta Womens' Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta..July 20 - 22
Kathy Lowther - 485-2236

Soft White Wheat and Oilseed Crops Tour
Taber/Barnwell..July 24
Blair Roth - Lethbridge 381-5127

Alberta Soft White Wheat Producers Tour
Bow Island..July 27
Blair Roth - Lethbridge 381-5127

American Society of Civil Engineering Conference
Portland, Oregon..July 27 - 31

Southern Alberta Pulse Crops Tour
Bow Island..July 30
Blair Roth - Lethbridge 381-5127

National Farm and Power Equipment Dealer's Association
88th annual national (North American) convention
Hyatt Regency and Marc Plaza
Milwaukee, Wisconsin..August 1 - 5
James Whitfield - St. Louis, Missouri - (314) 821-7220

Soil Conservation Society of America - 1987 Annual Conference
Billings, Montana..August 2 - 5
John Hermans - Edmonton - 422-4385

Canadian Society of Soil Science
33rd annual convention
Ottawa, Ontario..August 16-19

(Cont'd)

Agricultural Institute of Canada - Annual Conference
University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario...August 24 - 27
Andy Teruands - London - (613) 232-9459

Wetlands 1987 Conference
Edmonton, Alberta......................................August 26 - 28
Doreen Munsie - Calgary - 291-4882

Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center - Field Day
at the research centre on TransCanada Highway
5 kilometres east of Brooks, Alberta.........................August 28
Rudy Esau or Joyce Clark - Brooks - 362-3391

Impact of Climate Change on the Canadian Prairies
Workshop/Symposium
Edmonton, Alberta.....................................September 9 - 11
Bonnie Magill - Edmonton - 422-2070

Lambs in Lacombe
Family sheep and wool fair
Lacombe, Alberta...September 19
Cathy Gallivan - Edmonton - 427-5077

Alberta Feed Industry Conference
Convention Inn
Edmonton, Alberta..September 23
Association office - Alberta division - 482-2030

Western Nutrition Conference (livestock)
Convention Inn
Edmonton, Alberta..Sept. 24 - 25
Sam Jaikaran - Edmonton - 436-9150

Western Canada Fertilizer Association - Annual Convention
Fantasyland Hotel
Edmonton.............................. ....September 27 - 29
Ed Zenko - Edmonton - 426-3550

Western Canadian Water Association
Annual Conference
Saskatoon...October 20 - 23
Doreen Munsie - Calgary - 291-4882

National "Outstanding Young Farmers" Program
Rotary House, Calgary exhibition grounds
Calgary, Alberta....................................October 20 - 24
Michael Guertin - Calgary - 285-6898

(Cont'd)

Agriculture coming events (cont'd)

Agricultural Credit Conference
Inn on the Park
Toronto, Ontario..November 1 - 4
Monique Greenwood - Toronto - (416) 362-6092 ext. 236

Northern Alberta Development Council Conference
Grande Prairie Inn
Grande Prairie..November 4 - 6
Lynne Kemper - Edmonton - 422-4232

Alberta Horticultural Convention and Trade Show
Capri Centre
Red Deer..November 12 - 14
David Gourlay - Millet, Alta. - 387-4285

Alberta Sheep Symposium
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff...November 19 - 21
Cathy Gallivan - Edmonton - 427-5077

Christian Farmers Federation of Alberta - Annual Convention
Nisku Inn
Nisku...November 26
Gus Polman - Edmonton - 428-6981

Alberta Cattle Commission - Annual Meeting
Coast Terrace Inn
Edmonton..December 7 - 9
Joanne Lemke - Calgary - 291-4800

1988

Alberta Branch, Canadian Seed Growers - Convention
Banff, Alberta..January

Farm Equipment Dealers' Association of Alberta - B.C.
Fantasyland Hotel
West Edmonton Mall, Edmonton, Alberta..................January 21 - 23
William Lipsey - Calgary - 250-7581

Alberta Beef Symposium
Live cattle marketing - Options for the future
Edmonton..February 2 - 3
Doug Walkey - 340-7612

American Dairy Science Association Annual Conference
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta.......................................June 26 - 29
Dairy Processing Branch - Wetaskiwin - 429-2735

Coming Agricultural Events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in October, November, December or any events omitted in the attached list? Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates? Please be sure to state whether 1987 or 1988.

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by August 21, 1987 to:

Print Media Branch
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed September 8, 1987.)

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AGRI-NEWS

AUG -7 1987

July 13, 1987

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Editor's Note

The following article on the Alberta crop and weather situation is an assessment of conditions by Alberta Agriculture specialists, up to and including July 8.

Because conditions can change quickly, editors and news directors are advised to check with specialists or local district agriculturists to make sure information is current.

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July 13, 1987
For immediate release

Moisture improves general crop picture

Although there are still plenty of variables, soil moisture and crop conditions in Alberta have generally improved with the arrival of early-July rain in many regions.

Specialists with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton say while more moisture is needed, crops have perked up in the drier parts of Alberta. There is probably no hope for normal yields or bumper crops in many districts, but at least there will be a crop to harvest.

The spokesmen say conditions range from good to excellent in the northern Peace River region to extremely dry in both the east and west corners of southern Alberta.

Keir Packer, crop statistician says the rain came too late to help some farmers, but will boost both cereal and oilseed crops across two-thirds of the province.

Packer says yields will probably be below normal and some farmers will have to cope with the additional problem of the rains bringing on new growth, creating uneven crop maturity at harvest.

The moisture also increases the potential for good fall pasture for livestock.

Reviewing moisture conditions from north to south, Peter Dzikowski, weather resource specialists says the northern Peace region had between 10 to 35 millimetres of rain over the first eight days of July, while the south Peace had less than 10 millimetres.

Crop and moisture conditions in the Peace range from excellent in the north to fair in the south.

Further south, the Barrhead/Westlock area sits in fair condition as it missed showers that passed through other areas. Packer says crops are doing well, although soil moisture is very low.

There's an odd-shaped region from Lac La Biche, through Edmonton to Drayton Valley, Edson and Rocky Mountain House that is in generally good moisture condition following early July rains.

(Cont'd)

Dzikowski says about 40 millimetres of rain fell along the foothills, dropping to about 20 millimetres around Edmonton. Packer says crops have responded to the moisture.

Crops within a large triangular area in the centre of the province that were under serious moisture stress at the end of June received a new lease on life with early July rain.

The weather specialist says Coronation for example received 90 millimetres of rain over four days, while Calgary received 55 millimetres and Red Deer 30 millimetres.

Packer says the Vermilion/Vegreville area is still extremely dry and crops remain poor in an area south of Vegreville and east of Stettler.

In southern Alberta - an area from Brooks and High River to the Montana border - there is wide disparity in crop condition. Crops in the extreme east and west corners are under severe moisture stress, while the centre of the region is in fairly good shape.

On the east side, Dzikowski says the Medicine Hat area had about nine millimetres of rain July 1 to July 8, while on the west side the Pincher Creek/Clarehsolm area had about 10 millimetres.

Down the middle from Brooks, to Bow Island, Lethbridge and Cardston crops are generally good boosted by between 25 to 50 millimetres of rain in early July.

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Contact:	Keir Packer 427-4011	Peter Dzikowski 422-4385

July 13, 1986
For immediate release

Range improvement part of Lakeland tour

Livestock producers interested in using the least costly techniques to improve the grazing value of native bushland are invited to attend the annual field day organized by the Lakeland Forage Association, August 6.

Harvey Yoder, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Lac La Biche, says two years ago the association started a northern range enhancement project just south of Lac La Biche. The association has leased 1,600 acres from Alberta Lands and is comparing three major treatments to improve forage production on native bushland.

The three treatments include spray and burn; windrowing; and conventional clear and break.

As the project continues the association will be comparing the grazing potential of grass species, rotational versus continuous grazing, fertilizer trials and various fencing trials.

The August field day will be begin at 1 p.m. with registration at the Cragend Community Hall, 12 miles south of Lac La Biche on Highway 36, and two miles east on Highway 55.

Short presentations will be made on development of the project to date including slides and a short video. Producers will then take a tour of the project, which will include observations of the three major methods of improving bushland, fencing trials, new corral design, forced-use livestock oilers, and establishment of pasture stands.

Several Alberta Agriculture specialists will be providing additional information on various aspects of the project.

Following the tour of the grazing site, producers will be brought back to the community hall for an evening meal and final remarks. There will be various displays on beef and pasture production and number of displays on beef promotion.

There will also be a plant identification contest.

Anyone planning to attend should contact the DA office in Lac La Biche, at 623-5218 to register. Registration is $10 which includes the evening meal.

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Contact: Harvey Yoder - 623-5218

July 13, 1986
For immediate release

Different kind of door prize at dairy congress

One visitor attending the upcoming Alberta Dairy Congress in Leduc will go home with something unique in the world of door prizes.

Rather than a gas barbecue or a new set of golf clubs one producer will be the lucky winner of a Holstein cow embryo.

The prize is one way to emphasize the new technology in the dairy industry being highlighted at the first dairy congress July 28 and 29.

A congress organizer, Janette McDonald-Adam, says the event will provide demonstrations and displays on all aspects of the dairy industry and be of interest to both dairy producers and dairy product consumers.

Embryo transplants (ET) will be a featured topic at the trade show.

"Farmers will be able to hear one of the major researchers in ET technology and one lucky farmer will take home the door prize of an embryo from an Excellent Ned Holstein cow," says McDonald-Adam, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist in Leduc.

Keynote speaker, Dr. Ruben Mapeltoph, has been involved in embryo work at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon for 10 years. He is past president of the international ET society and is one of the leading authorities on embryo transplants in Canada.

Farmers will hear him talk about the current uses of embryo transplants and discuss future applications in the average Alberta dairy herd.

"One of the exciting parts of the two day event is the door prize of an embryo," says the congress spokesman. "Jim Thimer, of Dardel Genetics in Fort Saskatchewan has donated an embryo from an Excellent Ned cow. She has a BCA of 191 for milk and 202 for fat. She already has two very good daughters, one of them with BCA of 200 for milk."

The embryo is sired by Hanover Hill Starbuck. The winner will receive, the embryo and it will be implanted courtesy of Dardel Genetics.

McDonald-Adam says farmers attending the congress will have an opportunity to learn more about ET, and the door prize will offer someone first hand experience with embryo transplant genetics.

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Contact: Janette McDonald-Adam - 986-2251

July 13, 1987
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture honors Royal Bank for sponsorship

The Royal Bank of Canada has been honored by Alberta Agriculture for its record of contribution to the Alberta and Canadian 4-H program.

At a special dinner in Calgary July 6, Keith Sveinson the Royal Bank's district manager of agricultural services, was presented with a plaque signed by Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga and Associate Minister Shirley Cripps recognizing the bank's 25 years of sponsorship of the Interprovincial 4-H Exchange program.

Although there are other sponsors of specific 4-H programs the Royal has, through a quarter-century of continuous support, become the longest-serving sponsor.

The Royal Bank 4-H Interprovincial Exchange Program was launched in July 1963 when the first 90 4-H club members from across Canada (10 from each province) were selected to participate in the national exchange program.

These 90 were to be the first of about 1,900 Canadian 4-H members who over the years were sponsored for a two week visit to learn the customs and lifestyles of people in other Canadian provinces. During the 25 years more than 200 Alberta 4-H members have benefited from the program.

The dinner was in honor of the 25 anniversary event as well as being the send-off for Alberta 4-H members participating in the 1987 exchange. Among those in Calgary for the dinner were John Briggs of Sherwood Park and Angus Park of Balzac, two of the first Alberta 4-H members to participate in the 1963 exchange program.

This month five Alberta 4-H members are participating in the interprovincial exchange visiting British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. As well, Alberta will play host to five exchange participants from other provinces.

The Royal Bank has been the sole contributor to the exchange and is the only sponsor in the history of the Canadian 4-H Council to have such a long-standing commitment.

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Contact: Irene Leavitt
427-2409

July 13, 1987
For immediate release

Fertilizer program conditions remain the same

Alberta farmers planning to make use of the Alberta Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan this year will find no change in the way the program operates, says the program administrator.

Dr. Bruce Jeffery, with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, says although the program was recently extended for another year by Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga, the conditions remain the same.

Created in 1985, the program is designed to reduce the fertilizer cost to farmers. The plan has so far handled more than 60,000 claims, covering 1.7 million tonnes of fertilizer. It has returned more than $39 million to farmers.

The minister expects the 12 month extension will provide a further $20 million worth of rebates to producers.

With the extension, the plan now becomes a four-year program effective from August 1, 1984 to July 31, 1988, says Jeffery. Alberta farmers will have until July 31, 1988 to buy and use eligible fertilizer on their fields and until January 31, 1989 to pay for the fertilizer and submit a claim to the program.

Anyone who has not yet claimed under the program may submit a claim for fertlizer bought and used since August 1, 1984.

Under the plan, eligible applicants receive a grant calculated on the basis of $50 per tonne of actual nitrogen and $25 per tonne of actual phosphate used, during the effective period, on land farmed in Alberta.

For example, the grant would be $41 per tonne for 82-0-0 or $19.25 per tonne for 11-55-0.

The applicant must farm land within Alberta that he or she owns, leases or rents for the purpose of crop or forage production. Individuals, corporations, partnerships and other organizations actively engaged in farming are eligible.

Only fertilizer used on Alberta farm land is eligible. An applicant can only claim on the same fertilizer once. However, an applicant can make more than one application.

(Cont'd)

Fertilizer program conditions remain the same (cont'd)

There are upper limits for eligibility on how much nitrogen and phosphate is applied per acre. Jeffery notes farmers, when making application, be sure to list the acreage of all crops and forage that have been or will be fertilized in the crop year.

Application forms are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Documents required when making application, must include the original invoices, dealer summary statements or Form B's that are stamped and signed by the dealer.

Original invoices will be photocopied at the district office and forwarded with the application to head office. The original invoices will be stamped and returned to the applicant.

Producers should make sure the transaction documents show the following information: invoice number; date of delivery; tonnage (metric) for each grade of fertilizer claimed and the grade which indicates the per cent of nitrogen and phosphate in the fertilizer, and; that the fertilizer is paid for.

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Contact: Dr. Bruce Jeffery
422-5672

July 13, 1987
For immediate release

Soil and feed testing fees increased

Beginning August 1, 1987 the fees charged by the Alberta Agriculture's Soils and Animal Nutrition Lab in Edmonton for regular analyses of both soil and feed samples will increase by about $5, says a department spokesman.

Adolph Goettel head of the soils branch says fees for services vary depending on the type and complexity of the analyses requested. A complete schedule is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

The government lab provides regular analyses packages and other special analyses for the diagnosis of cropping and livestock production problems. The new fees for regular analyses packages will average $20 per sample, an increase of $5 from the current $15 per sample.

The regular analyses fees will be:
$20 for three depth samples of soil (to 24").
$20 per sample for plant tissue analyses and mixed animal feeds.
$15 per sample for analyses of grain samples used for animal feeds, and
$25 per sample of roughages (silage and hay).

Fees for additional individual analysis provided in combination with a regular analyses package will be $5 per analyses per sample. The minimum fee is $20 per sample."

The fee increase is in concert with the Alberta government's policy to transfer some government services to the private sector.

"The new charges will bring them in line with those of other private and public laboratories offering similar services in Western Canada," says Goettel.

"The role of the government laboratory is to provide an alternative regular analyses service and for diagnosing unusual soil, crop or animal feed problems."

The branch works closely with the private labs through their association, the "Western Enviro-Agricultural Laboratory Association" (WEALA), to assure producers receive credible laboratory and recommendation services.

(Cont'd)

Soil and feed testing fees increased (cont'd)

Private laboratories in Alberta can usually offer more rapid turn around service during peak analyses periods such as late fall and early spring.

Farmers are reminded, to expedite service, correct payment should be enclosed with samples submitted for analyses.

Information on proper sampling procedures, sample containers and a fee schedule is available from district offices or directly from the Agricultural Soils and Animal Nutrition Laboratory, 905, O.S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, T6H 4P2 or phone 427-6361.

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Contact: Adolph Goettel
427-2530

July 13, 1987
For immediate release

Fresh farm produce - ready for the picking

With many Alberta fresh fruits and vegetables now available from market gardeners across the province, the Alberta Market Gardeners Association wants to make sure the public knows where to find it.

The association is again providing public information services to help consumers learn what produce is available and where it is sold.

There are more than 300 market gardeners in Alberta working about 2,000 acres of fruit and vegetables, and marketing their crops direct-to-consumer.

"The market gardeners who range from Fort McMurray to Milk River, grow a wide variety of vegetables, many of which are ready to be harvested," says Lloyd Hausher, a spokesman for the organization. "Market gardeners sell at farmers' markets and at the farm gate, either pre-picked, or pick-your-own."

The market gardeners association has just released a buyers guide listing members, locations, directions to their farm and produce available. A map outlining locations as well as information of availability seasons is included.

Copies of this brochure is available from the association by writing AMGA, Mail Bag 200, Brooks, Alberta TOJ OJO, or phoning Lisa at 362-3391.

The association will also again be operating a toll-free produce information line this year, alllowing consumers anywhere in Alberta to obtain up-to-date information on produce availability and directions to the nearest produce.

Consumers can call 1-800-332-1302, Thursday to Saturday, from July 15 to September 15, 1987.

Hausher encourages consumers to enjoy the farm fresh country experience of visiting a local market gardeners.

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Contact: Lloyd Hausher
362-3391

Editor's Note

The following feature length article written by Dr. Ieuan Evans, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of plant pathology, is a backgrounder on verticillum wilt, a fungal disease which affects thousands of acres of alfalfa crops in Alberta and other western provinces.

There is no specific time frame for the story, although it is relevant now as farmers launch into the haying season. The article reviews problem associated with the disease and recommends several control measures.

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July 13, 1987
For immediate release

Alfalfa hay and verticillium wilt

by Dr. Ieuan Evans

Verticillium wilt can significantly reduce the yield and production life of alfalfa crops. This fungal disease of our premier forage crop is now fairly widespread on irrigated alfalfa land in southern Alberta and has also been found in a few instances on dryland alfalfa in this area.

A more precise definition of this region would be south of Calgary bounded by Highway 2 on the west, Highway 1 in the north and Highway 41 east of Medicine Hat.

Some infested fields outside of these boundaries have been confirmed west of Highway 2 at Turner Valley and north of Highway 1 at Rockyford and Dutchess. In neighboring provinces, all alfalfa areas south of Quesnel, British Columbia are infested and one small region around Miry Creek in Saskatchewan.

All alfalfa growing regions in the United States are considered infested unless proven otherwise.

Agriculture Canada disease control regulations are geared to minimize the long distance spread of verticillium wilt resulting through the movement of hay and seed to non-infested areas.

Alfalfa seed must be treated with Thiram fungicide unless the seed is considered by the producer/seller, to be free of this fungus based on field inspection, seed test (by an approved laboratory) or geographical origin (a region free of this disease).

Alfalfa hay, including wafered or baled forms from either pure or mixed stands grown in regions known to be infested come under federal disease control regulations.

The following federal regulations apply to movement of alfalfa hay produced within the provinces or imported from outside sources.

1. All alfalfa hay (all or part alfalfa) originating from the United States must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate establishing freedom from the verticillium wilt fungus.

(Cont'd)

2. Sale and/or movement of unpelletized hay in Canada containing alfalfa may occur, provided the hay is considered, by the producer/seller, to be free of the veriticillium wilt fungus. This is true of all alfalfa hay or mixtures containing alfalfa grown in areas not known to be infested by the wilt fungus.
3. Hay, as well as machinery and equipment may be moved, without restriction within the generally recognized infested areas of Canada.
4. Sale and/or movement of hay containing alfalfa known to be infested with the verticillium wilt fungus may occur to unifested areas provided the hay is pelletized.
5. Machinery and equipment used in the cultivation and harvesting of alfalfa, which is to be moved from infested to non-infested areas of Canada must be decontaminated through washing or steam-cleaning.
6. It is the responsibility of the person producing/moving the regulated articles (hay or machinery) to determine if those articles are free of the verticillium wilt fungus.

Disease Control (infested fields)

a) Stands should be kept vigorous by following recommended practices for irrigation, weed control and fertilization. Shepherd's-purse, red root pigweed, lamb's-quarters and dandelion are hosts for the verticillium fungus.

b) Badly infested fields should be plowed as soon as possible after the disease is detected. If the disease occurs in a few isolated patches in an otherwise good stand, the plants in these patches should be destroyed with glyphosate (Roundup) herbicide and plowed down. Rotate alfalfa with cereals, grasses, canola and other crops which are not susceptible to this verticillium wilt.

c) If both diseased and healthy fields are present on the same farm, cut the healthy fields first and diseased fields last. As a precaution, remove as much plant debris as possible from harvesting machinery when moving from field to field, especially when moving

(Cont'd)

to a farm where the disease is known not to occur. Disinfestation with steam or a two per cent formaldehyde solution can be done as an added measure of protection.

d) Take as many precautions as possible as not to inadvertently spread the disease to healthy alfalfa fields via the movement of infested hay or soil. For example:
   - Diseased fields should not be used for animal grazing as the verticillium fungus can be spread in the manure.
   - Contaminated manure from feedlots should be composted in a pile until decomposed. This may take several weeks. The pile should be turned frequently to ensure that surface manure is worked in and exposed to the high temperatures and chemical changes which occur during decomposition. In general, manure from animals fed with verticillium infested alfalfa should not be spread onto forage legume fields.
   - Forage from verticillium infected fields should not be fed to animals pasturing on other forage-legume fields since the disease can be carried in the hay and manure. Dehydrated infested alfalfa may still contain viable verticillium fungus, so precautions should be used when feeding such materials.
   - While flood irrigating, avoid reusing runoff water from diseased fields to irrigate healthy fields.

Verticillium wilt-resistant varieties

Long-term practical control of this disease will come from verticilium wilt-resistant varieties, as is the practice in Europe.

European varieties resistant to verticillium wilt are generally not sufficiently winterhardy to be grown in Alberta, and in addition are susceptible to bacterial wilt. However, Canadian and U.S. public institutions and private companies have already developed more than a dozen verticillium wilt-resistant varieties that are registered for sale in Canada.

(Cont'd)

Alfalfa hay and verticillium wilt (cont'd)

Three of these varieties are on the recommended list for Alberta: Barrier, the most resistant variety, was released in 1986 by Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge Research Station and will be available to forage producers starting in 1988; the private varieties Trumpetor and Admiral are currently available.

Barrier and Admiral have good resistance to bacterial wilt and Trumpetor has moderate resistance. A number of other varieties, although not yet on Alberta's recommended list, have performed well in recent trials.

It is expected that new varieties with improved resistance to verticillium wilt will continue to appear on the market during the next several years.

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Several specialists are listed to provide more information as needed.

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July 13, 1987
For immediate release

Jim Henderson appointed head of Fairview lab

A long-practicing Alberta veterinarian and educator has been appointed head of Alberta Agriculture's regional veterinary lab in Fairview.

Dr. Jim Henderson, who over the years has worked as a practicing veterinarian from southern Alberta to the Peace River region, was confirmed in his new position in an announcement made by the department's acting director of animal health, Dr. Terry Church.

Henderson brings an extensive background in veterinary medicine to his new position. He graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1964 and practiced in Taber and Vauxhall for five years.

He began a mixed practice in Fairview in 1969 and became the first veterinarian to work from the Alberta government clinic completed in 1970.

Besides practicing veterinary medicine virtually throughout the Peace River district, he was involved in a purebred cattle and grain farming company from 1972 to 1977.

In 1975, Henderson joined Fairview College as chairman of the animal health department and supervised the development of the animal health technologist program.

In addition to supervising and teaching in the animal health technology program, he also taught courses in livestock production, beef production and horse management programs at the college. He assumed the position of associate dean of agriculture at the college in the 1982/83 school year.

In his new position, Henderson will be responsible for supervising the operation of the laboratory, examination of materials submitted to the laboratory, investigation of disease problems on farms and extension activities in the Peace River region.

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Contact: Dr. Terry Church
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July 13, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

BEAN PLANT RECEIVES EXPANSION ASSISTANCE

The Alberta Wheat Pool has launched a $1.7 million expansion of its Bow Island Bean Plant with assistance of $433,057 from the Canada/Alberta Agricultural Processing and Marketing Subsidiary Agreement. In making the announcement, Bernard Valcourt, Federal Minister of State (small businesses and tourism) and Peter Elzinga, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture said the project is expected to create four jobs and generate sales of $13.6 million over a three-year period. The expansion will provide additional receiving, storage, bagging and shipping capacity, and this year will allow Alberta Wheat Pool to add 8,000 acres of pulse crops to its existing 12,000-acre contracting program with southern Alberta producers. For more information contact Dr. Jim Wiebe at 427-4287.

HOME STORAGE OF VEGETABLES

A new publication has been released by Alberta Agriculture just in time for the vegetable harvesting season. "Home Vegetable Storage" describes ways to properly build and operate home storage facilities to keep many vegetables grown in Alberta for winter use. The booklet provides construction details, management information, and good ideas on methods for storing vegetables at home. It contains detailed plans for a basement cold room, a small outdoor root cellar, or buried storages. Do you know why potatoes turn dark, or burn when fried? Or what makes carrots have a funny taste? Proper temperature humidity and ventilation are important for successful storage of vegetables. This, as well as information on harvesting, handling, and storage diseases of vegetables, is all covered in the bulletin. Copies of Home Vegetable Storage (Agdex 732-15) are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or the Publications Office at 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

(Cont'd)

FARM COUPLES INVITED TO FLAGSTAFF FIELD DAY

Farm couples in the County of Flagstaff area should set aside August 5 to provide a break from routine during the annual agricultural service board tour. Beginning with registration at the Hardisty arena at 8 a.m. the day offers a split program as the men head off to inspect crops and machinery and the women participate in workshops involving farm safety, horticulture and fashion. The men's bus tour will include stops to look at chemical and biological control of Leafy Spurge, forage establishment trials, cereal variety plots, Caterpillar tractor demonstration, zero and minimum drill demonstrations and pasture rehabilitation work. Meanwhile the women will be discussing their increased role in farm safety issues, pruning fruit trees, skin care, wardrobe planning and a fashion show. Lunch will be provided for both programs and the day wraps up with a dinner and entertainment at the Hardisty Arena. Registration at a cost of $15 per person or $25 per couple is required by July 24. The field day is sponsored by the Flagstaff county agricultural service board and Alberta Agriculture. More information is available by calling 384-3737.

BIG 4-H RALLY JULY 18

All Alberta 4-H members, leaders, parents and friends are reminded the provincial 4-H rally will be held on the July 18 weekend at the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake. Family groups are invited to bring their tents, campers, trailers or motorhomes for a camping weekend of entertainment and activities. The 4-H centre is located at Battle Lake, 35 kilometres west of Highway 2 on Highway 13. For more information contact Mahlon Weir at 422-4H4H.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 20, 1987

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For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
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Editor's Note

The following article on the Alberta crop and weather situation is an assessment of conditions by Alberta Agriculture specialists, up to and including July 15.

Because conditions can change quickly, editors and news directors are advised to check with specialists or local district agriculturists to make sure information is current.

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July 20, 1987
For immediate release

More rain falls across most of Alberta

The 1987 crops aren't out of the woods yet, but conditions continue to improve as more rain falls across most of Alberta, says agriculture specialists.

It hasn't been great news for farmers trying to put up hay or for campers looking for sunshine, but for producers of cereal, oilseed and forage crops about normal rainfall for July has been welcome.

There are still two very dry pockets in southern Alberta, and a large part of central Alberta has only borderline moisture reserves, but compared to late June, general conditions are much improved.

Peter Dzikowski, Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist in Edmonton says rainfall during the past week (July 8 to 15) ranged from 10 to 40 millimetres. The least amount fell in southern Alberta with the levels increasing through to northern Alberta.

Keir Packer, the department's crop statistician says southern Alberta crop conditions haven't changed much in the last week, although from Calgary north there has been general improvement.

The specialists say crops at this stage are using between 30 and 40 millimetres of moisture per week. To maintain growth plants have to either make use of continuing rainfall or draw from ground moisture reserves.

"In some parts of the province we don't have adequate ground moisture reserves to sustain the crops if we have another extended dry period," says Packer. "These areas are relying on rainfall to maintain growth and so far crops are holding their own."

Packer says it is still too early to predict yield from crops that were under moisture stress in June.

With about 20 to 40 millimetres of rain in the last week most of the Peace Region is in good to excellent condition. Crops in the area east of Grande Prairie missed most of the rainfall and are only in fair condition.

(Cont'd)

Moisture conditions in the Barrhead/Sangudo/Westlock/Athabasca area are variable, but generally fair to poor. Crops are holding their own but there is little ground moisture reserve.

In an area sweeping down from St. Paul and Bonnyville, through Edmonton across to Red Deer, moisture conditions are good. The Edmonton area received about 20 millimetres of moisture in the last week.

In the central and north-central part of the province conditions are improved from last week, but crops could still use more moisture. The Vegreville/Vermilion area which earlier was reported critical, received between 25 and 50 millimetres of rain in the last week.

Southern Alberta has received little new rainfall since July 8. About 10 millimetres of rain fell in some parts of the region. Crops and moisture in a central area from Brooks through Lethbridge to Cardston are in fairly good condition, while the Pincher Creek/Claresholm area and the Medicine Hat area continue to be very dry.

Dzikowski says the moisture shortfall this year came early in the growing season. Comparing the May 1 to June 30 period with the 30-year average, precipitation in the Peace region was at or above normal, while the Athabasca area was about half of normal, Vegreville was two-thirds of normal, Lethbridge was between half and two-thirds of normal and Pincher Creek and Medicine Hat areas were each about one-third of normal.

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Contact:	Keir Packer 427-4011	Peter Dzikowski 422-4385

July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Growth hormone under study in Alberta

Two Alberta researchers will be spending about $104,000 this year to study different aspects of how the new application of a natural dairy cattle hormone will affect agriculture and consumers in Alberta.

Dr. John Kennelly, at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and Ken Nicol at the University of Lethbridge are looking at two separate areas associated with the use of bovine growth hormone.

This naturally-occuring hormone is on the brink of revolutionizing the world-wide dairy industry. Although it is not yet commercially available, scientists have found by injecting dairy animals with bovine somatotropin - a hormone naturally produced by the pituitary gland - milk production can be increased by 25 to 40 per cent.

Although only research-work quantities are now produced in labs, scientists are trying to develop an easy and economical way for farmers to administer the hormone to commercial dairy herds. It is believed the hormone will be on the market within five years.

It is expected the impact of this increased production will send a shock wave through the industry affecting everyone from the dairy producer to the dairy consumer.

The studies are being funded by Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future program.

Nicol, associate professor of agriculture management at the Lethbridge university is trying to assess what impact use of the hormone will have on the Alberta dairy industry, in the one-year $29,000 study.

"Animal scientists are doing research on what effect the hormone has on individual cows, but what does it mean to farmers or the dairy industry as a whole?" says Nicol.

"If a cow is going to produce 25 to 30 per cent more milk it means farmers are either going to have to get more milk quota or they will operate with fewer animals and at reduced capacity."

He says he expects the high performance dairymen will gain from use of the hormone, while those on the lower end of the production scale will lose.

(Cont'd)

"The dairy industry as a whole will have to make some adjustments," says Nicol. "It will have to be more flexable. The industry will probably have to make changes such as making milk quota more accessible to farmers who want to expand their operations, and it will have to make it easier for those farmers who want to, to get out of the business.

"It will have to be a politicial decision on whether use of the growth hormone is good or bad for the industry. The consumer will probably benefit as milk and dairy product prices will drop."

Meanwhile, Edmonton scientist Dr. John Kennelly is trying to determine exactly how the hormone stimulates a cow to produce more milk.

"The major objective is to examine the impact on dairy cattle," he says. "We want to see how the bovine somatotropin hormone influences milk yield. We want to see how it influences reproduction, and how it influences overall animal health."

Kennelly says while it is known the hormone affects milk production it is not clear how this is achieved. Does the hormone directly affect the mammary gland? Does it urge the cow to eat more and thus increase milk production? Does it stimulate blood flow and subsequently milk production?

Working with the University of British Columbia dairy herd on Vancouver Island, Kennelly and associate Dr. Gerry DeBoer are monitoring a 120-cow herd for three lactations (about three years) to see the overall effect. It is believed to be the largest study of its kind in the world. About $75,000 is being spent this year to monitor the herd during its second lactation.

Kennelly says the study information will benefit dairymen who will be using the hormone essentially to push average producing dairy animals into a higher production category.

"We should be able to tell them what impact this hormone will have on their livestock and on their own herd management."

The U of A specialist says information now available indicates consumers need not be alarmed over the use of the growth hormone.

"There are several reasons the hormone presents no threat to the consumer," says Kennelly.

(Cont'd)

Growth hormone under study in Alberta (cont'd)

First it is a naturally produced hormone that dairy cows now carry in their systems. What is being done through injection is to increase the level of the hormone in the cow's body.

Experiments done so far show no increase of the bovine hormone in the milk of research dairy cattle. The hormone is a protein the animal must digest and absorb into its system. It has to be totally broken down into amino acids before the animal can use it.

Finally it is also believed that the milk pasteurization process renders the hormone inactive.

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July 20, 1987
For immediate release

New dairy payment plan studied

A new method of paying dairy farmers and a look at feed-use efficiency are two dairy industry studies undertaken this year by University of Alberta researchers.

Dr. Fred Wolfe and Dr. John Kennelly, both with the U of A in Edmonton, are heading the $94,000 in research projects funded by Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future program.

Wolfe, in his three-year project, is trying to determine what impact a different payment method would have on the dairy industry.

Right now dairy farmers are paid a premium for their milk according to the level of butter fat it contains. The higher the butter fat content, the more it is worth.

Wolfe is wondering what would happen if the premium was based on the level of protein and lactose in the milk.

"Consumers today are interested in products with less fat and higher protein," he says. "Right now there is no recognition for farmers producing milk with higher protein.

"We want to see if the payment formula was changed to recognize the protein level, what would it mean in dollars and cents to the industry."

Wolfe says the protein level in milk can be influenced by the day to day herd management and feed quality, as well as through genetics. He says if protein did become a valuable milk quality, the emphasis on dairy breeding would probably change.

To determine the impact of changing the payment forumla, Wolfe and his assistants are going through existing dairy industry records and creating a model based on payment for protein levels.

In a separate study, Dr. John Kennelly is heading a research project to see what affects the efficient use of protein by dairy cattle.

Dr. Peter Robinson, who is working with Kennelly, says the $62,000 project will try to determine what can be done to improve protein-use efficiency.

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In order for a dairy cow to use the proteins in daily rations, it has to convert the proteins to amino acids which are absorbed into the system.

Researchers will be trying to determine how much protein is not being used - passes through the rumen - and why. They will try to determine if there are ways to make the protein more available to the animal.

Robinson says if researchers can identify what influences protein efficiency in dairy cows they can either recommend that plant breeders alter feed grain proteins, or they can suggest feed supplements that would help the animal better utilize the protein in daily rations.

The researcher says it could lead to greater use of Alberta-grown protein-rich feeds such as canola meal and faba bean meal.

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July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Team approach needed for bankers and farmers

Farmers and bankers need to be on the same wave length when trying to work out lending agreements or discuss other money management issues, says a specialist with Alberta Agricutlure.

"When a farmer and a banker are negotiating a loan, it is important that they communicate with each other in a common language", says Doug Barlund, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's Farm Business Management Branch in Olds. "It is also important they understand the needs, wants and expectations regarding each other's business.

"Banks are in the business of lending money to earn interest. Farmers are in the business of producing commodities to earn a profit. Although their goals may be different, both parties need to make profits in order to achieve their long term goals."

Barlund says it's the ongoing need for improved communication which has made an annual Alberta Agriculture seminar so popular.

To enhance bankers' understanding of agriculture and its potential to earn profit, the department has, for the past eight years, offered an Agricultural Workshop for Lenders at Olds College.

Over those eight years more than 650 bankers have attended the five-day workshop.

"The major objective of the workshop is to ensure continuity of the farmer-lender relationship, by familiarizing agricultural lenders with current farm production methods, marketing techniques and business alternatives that can provide a profitable return for producers," says Barlund.

The workshop was developed, and is coordinated annually, by Alberta Agriculture, farm business management branch, Olds, in conjunction with Olds College, extension services and the agriculture departments of the various banks in the province.

(Cont'd)

It also has been well supported by farm producer groups and associations such as Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta Hog Producers' Marketing Board, Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers and Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board.

"This year we also received generous sponsorship from some of the food processors in Alberta including Alberta Dairymen's Association, Milk Producers of Alberta, Viking Candy Corporation and Neapolis Dairy Products", he says.

In addition to classroom study, participants are given several on-farm tours in the Olds area to obtain a first hand look at farm operations. Part of the bankers' "take-home" reference material is a 600-page manual containing production information and cost and returns data on at least 10 major agricultural enterprises in the province.

"The reference manual has proven useful to agricultural consultants, farm managers/owners, appraisers, accountants, landmen, and agricultural students as a quick source of production and economic data that is needed to make business decisions in agriculture," says Barlund.

A major part of ensuring the continuity of the banker/farmer relationship is achieved by supplying the lenders with information on current farm production methods, costs and returns, marketing techniques, and debt carrying capacities of agricultural enterprises.

Both the workshop and reference manual provide this information on beef, grain, dairy, swine, sheep, beekeeping, horse and poultry enterprises.

The specialist says another benefit provided by the workshop is the awareness of the services available from Alberta Agriculture, as well as a directory of agricultural specialists within the department.

Quoting one participant at the workshop, "This course would benefit anyone involved in agricultural lending, especially beginning lenders. It provides a good opportunity to better understand the businesses we lend to."

A copy of the Agricultural Lenders' Manual, can be obtained for $25 per copy from Olds College, Extension Services, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 (Telephone: 556-8344).

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Contact: Douglas E. Barlund
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July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Japanese adventure offered to young Alberta farmers

Young Alberta men and women with an agricultural background, looking for a year of foreign experience and adventure, should consider a Japanese exchange program sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and Olds College.

The Alberta-Hokkaido Agriculture Exchange is accepting applications again this year, to send men and women between 18 and 28 years of age, with a farm background, to Alberta's sister province in Japan.

"It's a working adventure says," Brent Waite, of Olds, a former Hokkaido exchange participant. "Those who qualify will spend a year of working and learning on a Japanese farm.

"They will be paid a nominal rate for their labor, and will learn about the Japanese agriculture industry, language and culture. At the same time they will be sharing their Canadian culture with the Japanese family."

Waite, raised on a Balzac area farm, is now assistant coordinator of the extension services department at Olds College.

After Alberta and Hokkaido declared themselves sister provinces in 1972 several exchange programs were developed.

Hokkaido, northernmost of Japan's main islands is considered the country's last frontier. Dairy and beef cattle farming dominate its wide open spaces.

Costs associated with the exchange are shared by Alberta Agriculture and the college. The program is carefully screened and monitored by exchange officials.

"All the participant has to bring is the desire to work and learn, and a sense of adventure," says Waite.

The program is open to agricultural students (those attending university, college, or other agricultural programs), or those with farm experience.

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The students or trainees must be involved in areas of dairy, beef, sheep, horse, grain or mixed farming. They must be between 18 and 28; be in good health as indicated by a Medical Health Certificate; be hard working; and, they must attend all seminars, orientations, courses and other activities aimed at preparing them for the trip.

Application deadline is November 1 and departure on the year-long program is slated for the following spring.

"This is an ideal program for an agricultural student planning to take a year off from school, or for a farm youth who has just finished high school and is looking for some experience before heading to univeristy or college," said Waite.

"Today's agriculture has moved into a world of international marketing and trade. This year can provide valuable experience in learning the industry and culture of one of Alberta's major trading partners."

Waite says the program is also interested in recruiting host families in Alberta to accept exchange students from Japan.

For more information on the Alberta/Hakkaido exchange contact the Department of Extension Services, Olds Collge, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, or phone 556-8353 or 556-8313.

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Contact: Brent Waite
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Editor's Note

Following is a two-part feature on a farmer-operated organization known as the forage association. There are 11 of these associations, covering most of the province, designed to help farmers get the most out of hay and pasture land.

The first part of the feature, "Associations dedicated to forage resource" is an overview of the associations and how they were developed. The second part, "Survey shows dramatic support for forage associations" is a look at how the farmer members of one of the oldest groups in the province feel about their association.

The stories can be run together or they can stand alone.

July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Associations dedicated to forage resource

Hundreds of Alberta farmers, wanting to get the most out of their livestock, pasture and hay production, rely on a unique network of organizations for practical advice in the field.

The concept of the forage association, which was founded 15 years ago by a group of farmers along the Foothills, has now spread province-wide.

Designed as self-help groups, the 11 forage associations cover districts from the rolling foothills of southern Alberta, to the open prairie around Oyen, north through the Rocky Mountain House parkland, to the Peace River region.

The associations' membership, which includes farmers, ranchers, dairymen, and hay growers, as well as individuals concerned about proper land use, is dedicated to improving forage production, which in turn benefits all areas of agriculture.

To the average person, forage may seem like only so much grass, but to farmers and ranchers across Alberta hay and pasture are the meat and potatoes of the industry.

Forage seldom draws the industry spotlight because it usually does not put cash directly in the hands of farmers. Forage is the summer pasture and winter hay farmers rely on to feed meat and milk producing livestock.

But through the work of the associations, forage is getting greater attention, says Myron Bjorge, Alberta Agriculture's forage crops supervisor.

"Forage associations have really helped advance the industry," says Bjorge. "The producer-operated associations work at a practical field level to improve forage production, solve problems, improve management and deliver new and known technology to farmers.

"The objective is to improve forage production not just for the sake of growing more grass, but to improve efficiency. The goal is to improve the profitability of forage as a crop as well as fine tune forage management to benefit ranchers and dairymen."

(Cont'd)

Associations dedicated to forage resource (cont'd)

A group of like-minded farmers along the foothills formed the first forage association in the early 1970s. The Foothills Forage Cooperative Association based in Calgary continues to serve farmer members in an area roughly west of Highway 2, from Olds south to the U.S. border.

Although they are farmer-operated organizations, with a board of directors and in many areas now, a paid manager, the 11 associations annually share about $300,000 in grant money from Alberta Agriculture. The money covers part of the operating costs and funds special projects.

"It must also be remembered there is a large volunteer component," says Bjorge. "Without the dedication of the members who donate time to the goals and projects of the group I don't think we would maintain the strong network of forage associations we have in Alberta."

Alberta Agriculture staff work closely with forage associations. In many areas, the district agriculturist acts as the secretary for the individual groups, while regional forage specialists also provide support. Bjorge, along with providing technical help, administers the department's grant program from the field crops branch in Lacombe.

The associations play a role by organizing workshops and seminars for member farmers, conducting field trials on new forage varieties and management techniques, supporting on-farm research projects and producing newsletters on association and forage activities.

"The associations collect information from many sources and put it together to be used in a practical on-farm management system," says Bjorge. "A good example is association support for pasture management systems. They can help farmers decide what is the right forage, the right mixture, the proper fencing, the correct grazing rotation and the proper animal nutrition. The system also includes advice on animal health and fly control programs."

Representing the forage industry on a provincial basis is the Alberta Forage Institute. It acts as an umbrella group for most of the forage association. Institute members also include the Alberta Forage Seed Council, research stations, the University of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture.

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July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Survey shows dramatic support for forage association

Farmers wondering if forage associations live up to their billing can take the advice of colleagues belonging to one of the oldest groups in Alberta.

Making a dramatic statement through a recent survey, 86 per cent of the members of the Pembina Forage Association (PFA) said the work of the PFA improved their pasture and hay operation.

"When you get nearly 90 per cent of your membership saying the work of the association actually changed the way they go out and manage their forage crops, I think that is impressive," says Lorne Cole, PFA manager in Westlock.

"You always assume the message is getting through to a certain number of farmers, but when the figures are this high it shows the association is playing an important role."

PFA president Don Petryshen agreed the survey results provided a strong show of support.

"I think we should be extremely proud of the high effectiveness level of the association over its 12 year history," said the Westlock area farmer. "Overall, I think that PFA has received a vote of confidence from its members on the types of activities that are being run. Nevertheless, it continues to be the role of the association to develop programs that meet the needs of producers and are as effective as possible."

The Pembina group, which serves the northwest region including Sangudo, Barrhead, Westlock and Athabasca, was formed 11 years ago. PFA, like the 10 other similar associations across Alberta, is dedicated to promoting better forage management and forage production.

It relies on tours, seminars, workshops, field demonstrations and its quarterly newsletter, "The Hayshaker", to get the message out.

The survey of the association's 300 members had a 50 per cent response rate. It told association officials the programs and projects were on the right track.

(Cont'd)

Survey shows dramatic support for forage association (cont'd)

On a scale of one to 10 the survey highlighted programs members considered as the six most important. These programs, (with a rating of eight or more) included field plots and trials, seminars, the quarterly newsletter, annual tour of forage projects, seed listing service (in which high quality forage seed can be bought from or sold to association members) and the new cow/calf pasture project.

The pasture project, 10 miles east of Fawcett, is attempting to achieve a six month grazing season with a carrying capacity of two acres per animal unit for the season, while at the same time maintaining a healthy forage stand. It involves 127 cow/calf pairs on a half section of pasture.

Other projects include comparing forage stand establishment and production with and without a cover crop; using annual forage crops for pasture and hay silage production; management of micro-nutrients on peat soils seeded to Meadow Foxtail; and several field trials.

Rick Bjorge, PFA secretary-treasurer says the association also has an impact on many non-members.

"There is obviously some spin-off from the work of the association to the farming community in general," says Bjorge, district agriculturist in Westlock. "As an example, the PFA membership is 300, but The Hayshaker newsletter has a mailing list of about 10,000 farmers. The value of the association reaches much further than the survey shows."

The association board of directors is reviewing survey results to see where program emphasis is needed.

The survey showed 66 per cent of respondents had ordered seed from PFA, 96 per cent read the Hayshaker on a regular basis, 73 per cent had attended a PFA seminar, 54 per cent had attended the annual tour, 96 per cent were aware of the new cow-calf pasture project and 86 per cent had used information from PFA plots.

As well, 96 per cent felt rotational grazing does have a place on their farm, 88 per cent normally use pedigreed forage seed, 67 per cent normally fertilize their pastures and 77 per cent normally fertilize their hay fields.

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Contact:	Don Petryshen	Lorne Cole	Rick Bjorge
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July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Field day planned at Brooks horticultural centre

The public is invited to the upcoming 25th annual field day at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center (ASCHRC) at Brooks.

Tours, lectures, films, demonstrations, and clinics are on the program for visitors attending the August 28 event at the centre, five kilometres east of Brooks.

"Backyard Pest Management" is the theme of this year's field day. A special display on companion planting for pest control will be featured.

Walking tours will include a look at general horticultural crops, special and field crops, and demonstration areas. There will be demonstrations and lectures on disease and insect problems of trees and shrubs, pests (including vertebrate and stored-product pests), home pesticide safety, and alternatives to pesticides. A pruning demonstration will also be given.

Home gardeners and farmers are urged to bring samples of plant problems for inspection by Alberta Agriculture specialists in the plant pest clinic.

The centre, formerly the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, is well-known for providing research and extension information to the commercial horticultural community in Alberta, specifically, and to horticulturists across the prairies.

Along with the name change this year, increased emphasis has been placed on research and extension on special (alternate) crops under irrigation.

Visitors are reminded to be prepared for a limited amount of walking on site. The special walking tour through the arboretum and other demonstration areas will be available.

For further details on the program write the ASCHRC at Bag 200, Brooks, Alberta T0J 0J0, or call 362-3391.

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Contact: Rudy Esau
362-3391

July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Farm profit is linked to debt

Understanding the capital structure of a farm business is important for effective management, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

And a new factsheet from Alberta Agriculture explains and demonstrates the relationship between capital structure and earning performance of Alberta farms, says Craig Edwards, a farm management economist in Olds.

"How Capital Structure Affects Earning Performance" was written by Dr. Leonard Bauer and Frank Novak of the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Bauer is a professor in the department of rural economy, specializing in farm management and finance, while Novak is an associate professor in the department.

They use the actual financial statements of three operating farms producing grain and livestock, to illustrate the financial relationships discussed.

"These farm businesses existed in an economic environment where profits changed significantly from year to year for the five year period studied," says Edwards.

"The cases presented clearly demonstrate the impact of the debt to equity ratio on the level and variability of earnings by a farm business."

"How Capital Structure Affects Earning Performance," (Agdex FS830-1) is available at district extension offices of Alberta Agriculture or the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Crops of Alberta open house set for July 23 - 24

City and rural folks alike will find something of interest during the annual Crops of Alberta open house in Edmonton later this week.

The event at the Alberta Agriculture headquarters at 7000 -113 Street will give people from all walks of life a look at the past, present and future of the crops that are part of the agricultural industry in the province.

The display, planted on about one acre of ground just south of the agriculture building, features between 40 and 50 different crops and dozens of varieties.

It is available all summer for visitors to drop by and take the self-guided tour. The open house allows for more personal contact with guests.

The display highlights traditional crops such as wheat and barley, special crops such as fababeans and sugarbeets, and novelty crops such as peanuts.

The open house planned for Thursday and Friday, July 23 and 24 will allow visitors guided tours with Alberta Agriculture staff on hand to explain the history of the crops.

Lorna Stephen, co-ordinator of the Crops of Alberta display says the plots give people a chance to see what different crops look like and learn what they are used for.

"Through the Decades" is the theme of this year's display. Featured are varieties of different cereal crops that have been grown in Alberta in each decade since 1900. The display also includes the recommended crop varieties for 1987.

"Wheat, barley and oats have been the primary crops over the decades," says Stephen. "Plant scientists are constantly searching for new crop varieties that are heartier, more productive and disease resistant. Over the decades varieties that were considered the best of the day have been replaced by new varieties. The Crops of Alberta display attempts to show the progress made through plant breeding."

(Cont'd)

Along with the cereal crops, also on display are special crops such as buckwheat, sugarbeets, canary seed, peas and lentils and some spices.

The oilseed crop display includes sunflowers, safflower, crambe (an experimental oilseed crop in Alberta), mustard, canola and flax.

A new feature added for this third year of the display is a seed sample exhibit at the front of each plot.

Along with the cultivated crops, there is also a display of unwanted plants. Some 35 common weeds will be identified for visitors.

During the open house guided tours will be offered at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each day. The plots can also be viewed between tours with staff available to answer any questions.

No advance booking is required to participate in the open house tours.

Stephens says in the event of poor weather the open house will be rescheduled.

For more information on the tours phone 427-5334.

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Contact: Lorna Stephen
427-5334

July 20, 1987
For immediate release

New publication assists with production decisions

A new Alberta Agriculture publication puts economic theory to work on the farm by helping producers with decisions.

The factsheet "Making Production Decisions" helps farmers review economic principles of production and describes a method to apply these principles to real on-the-job decision making.

The application of nitrogen fertilizer to barley is used as an example to illustrate the basic principles involved, says Craig Edwards, farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds.

Dr. Leonard Bauer, a professor in the department of rural economy, University of Alberta, is the author of the article. He uses tables and graphs to show expected barley yield in relation to nitrogen fertilizer application, and dollar value related to time delays in receiving revenue and consideration of risk and uncertainty.

"Farmers can make good use of this article," says Edwards. "It explains a simple method to adjust expectations to different conditions of the real world using proven principles of production. A fertilizer decision is only one of many decisions farmers have to make each year, but most decisions can be made better and easier by using a process like this."

"Making Production Decisions" (Agdex 818-35) is available at district extension offices of Alberta Agriculture or the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Forage treatment may cause "bovine bonkers"

Treating straw and hay to improve or protect feed value can be beneficial providing the animal doesn't get too much of a good thing, warns an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Adding anhydrous ammonia to some types of feed can improve digestibility and prevent spoilage, but research has shown the practice can also drive cows a little bit crazy.

"The application of anhydrous ammonia to forages has been practiced in Alberta for several years," says Dale Engstrom, a ruminant nutritionist with the department's beef cattle and sheep branch. "When applied to straw, digestibility and crude protein value are improved.

"Ammoniation can also be used to prevent mold and heat damage in hay that is baled at 30 to 35 per cent moisture content. Whether or not these practices are economical depends on the cost of ammoniation and the price of alternate feeds."

But Engstrom says farmers who have decided that ammoniation will be profitable this year should take particular care in application procedures.

It is important to apply enough ammonia to the forage to achieve the desired result, but too much ammonia is dangerous to the health of livestock. The acting section head says a condition known as "bovine bonkers" associated with ammonia treatment of good quality forage has been reported in scientific literature and at least one case has been diagnosed in Alberta.

Symptoms of bovine bonkers include, restlessness, hyperexcitability, trembling and twitching, rapid breathing and salivation. The most noteworthy sign is sudden stampeding, galloping in circles and colliding with other animals and fences.

Ammoniated, high quality hay, treated with greater than four per cent ammonia has produced the signs of toxicity. The presence of soluble reducing sugars in good quality hay and greenfeed is one factor thought to be related to formation of a toxin.

(Cont'd)

Forage treatment may cause "bovine bonkers" (cont'd)

"In the presence of heat and moisture, ammonia and reducing sugars can react to form 4-methyl imidazole," says Engstrom. "This compound is thought to be the toxin responsible for 'bovine bonkers' though recent work has implicated alkaloids."

He says environmental stress prior to crop maturation can increase the level of soluble reducing sugars and therefore the risk of toxin formation if the crop is ammoniated.

High temperatures (greater than 70°C) at time of treatment can also increase the risk of toxin formation. Temperatures as high as 70°C could occur under black plastic covering if the air temperature is high and the stack is exposed to bright sunlight.

"The toxin is known to accumulate in milk and therefore the first signs of hyperexcitability may show up in suckling calves or lambs," says the specialist. "Livestock do not have the ability to adapt to the toxin nor does the concentration of toxin decrease in the feedstuff with time."

When ammoniating and feeding ammoniated feeds, farmers should keep in mind the following points.

1. Apply the correct amount of anhydrous ammonia to the forage. Weigh a sample of the bales and determine the moisture content prior to applying the ammonia. The correct application rate is 3.0 to 3.5 per cent of the dry matter for straw and 1.5 to 2.0 per cent of the dry matter for high moisture hay.

2. The highest risk of toxin formation will be when good quality hay or greenfeed is ammoniated during the warm summer months. Ammoniation of straw is a much lower risk because it contains little soluble reducing sugars and treatment is done during the cooler fall season.

3. Laboratory tests for the toxin are not yet available in Alberta. Farmers should watch closely for signs of hyperexcitability and erratic behavior when cattle or sheep are being fed ammoniated grains or roughages. If any symptoms appear, withdraw the ammoniated feed immediately.

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Contact: Dale Engstrom
436-9150

CLARIFICATION

Editors and News Directors

In an article by farm tax specialist Merle Good in the July 6 issue of Agri-News a reference to the definition of a part-time farmer requires some clarification.

In the article "Losing your losses", a paragraph on the second page talked about "net farm income from all other sources..." The word "farm" should be deleted.

The corrected paragraph should read as follows:

WHAT IS A PART-TIME FARMER?

Under the new definitions, once the farmer has met the profitability test, and gross farm revenues exceed net income from all other sources in at least three out of the same seven years, the farmer is defined as a full-time farmer.

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July 20, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

CLARESHOLM DA MOVING TO RED DEER

Ted Nibourg, who has served as Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Claresholm has been appointed DA in Red Deer, taking over from long-time DA Peter Funk who retired in June. In an announcement by Alan Hall, director of North Central Region, Nibourg will assume his new position August 1. Born and raised on a Stettler-area farm, Nibourg received his bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Alberta in 1976, majoring in animal science. He worked for Alberta Wheat Pool before joining the department in 1977 as regional 4-H specialist. He served in Lethbridge and Grande Prairie before becoming district agriculturist in Three Hills in 1980. He transferred to Claresholm in 1984. Hall noted that Nibourg's "wide range of experience and fundamental understanding of the needs and problems of farm families will help to serve the agricultural industry of the Red Deer area." Nibourg is married and has three children. For more information contact Alan Hall at 340-7611 or Ted Nibourg at 625-3301.

TOURS LINED UP FOR PULSE GROWERS

Alberta pulse growers should make note of three separate tours planned for different parts of the province in late July and early August. July 30 the southern Alberta pulse tour will be be leaving from the district agriculturist office in Bow Island at 1 p.m. The tour will visit several pea, bean and lentil demonstrations during the afternoon before wrapping up with a barbecue. For more information on pre-registration contact Ruth McMorris, at 545-2233; Jack Payne at 223-9611 or Blair Roth at 381-5127. Also July 30 pulse growers in the Morinville area north of Edmonton are invited to an afternoon tour leaving from the Cardiff Hall at 12:30 p.m. The group will make several stops looking at production and harvesting demonstrations. To pre-register call John Hladky, DA in Morinville at 939-4351. Camrose area pulse growers should watch for a tour in that area, August 4. It gets underway at 10 a.m. For more information contact DA David Samm 679-1210.

(Cont'd)

OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS RECOGNIZED

For the eighth consecutive year the National Outstanding Young Farmer Program, organized by the Canada Jaycees, hosted by the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and sponsored by the Bank of Montreal, John Deere Limited and Hoechst Canada Inc., will be recognizing Canada's top young farmers. This year's national judges will be Harold Dodds, publisher of Public Press in Winnipeg which publishes Country Guide, Jack Drew, deputy minister of Saskatchewan's department of agriculture and Dr. George Collin, assistant deputy minister of Ontario's ministry of agriculture. The national judging will be held in Calgary from October 21 to 24. Eight regional finalist from across Canada will be competing. The top three will be chosen to receive the award. For more information contact Don MacKenzie at 672-1386.

REUNION PLANNED FOR 4-H STAFFERS

Past and present Alberta 4-H staff members are reminded of the four-day camping reunion beginning July 31 at the Alberta 4-H Centre at Battle Lake on Highway 13, 35 kilometres west of Highway 2. Mahlon Weir, at 4-H headquaters in Edmonton is extending the invitation to current and former provincial and regional 4-H specialists and support staff to attend the event. To register call Weir at 422-4H4H.

FIELD DAY AT FIELD CROPS BRANCH

Farmers wondering where new cereal crop varieties and production information comes from should plan to attend the Alberta Field Crops Branch research field day, August 7. Beginning at 1 p.m. farmers will be given guided tours and an opportunity to meet plant breeders during the annual event at the research centre, one mile south of Lacombe on the east side of Highway 2A. For more information contact the branch at 782-4641.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 27, 1987

AUG 25 1987

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Farm families get behind safety hike

Between 2,000 and 3,000 Alberta farm families were estimated to have taken a hike around their properties this past weekend to check safety awareness.

Responding to the first Farm Safety Hike organized by the Women of Unifarm and Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program, producers and their families took a self-guided tour of their homes and farm buildings.

Jacqueline Galloway of Fort Saskatchewan, promotions co-ordinator for Women of Unifarm says the purpose of the safety hike was to draw attention to some of the hazards that do exist on the farm. It also allowed farmers an opportunity to check their ability to deal with an emergency.

Alberta Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley Cripps was among those taking the farm safety hike as a kickoff to National Farm Safety Week.

Mrs. Cripps and several guests at her farm near Winfield, southwest of Edmonton, followed the guide through the different areas of inspection.

The Associate Minister, who had earlier encouraged Alberta farm families to get involved, said the hike provided a good opportunity to check "safety points we should be aware of. It also helps farm families detect any areas where safety measures can be improved."

Among those participating in the hike on the Cripps' farm were the associate minister and her husband Lorne; Unifarm President Ralph Jesperson and his wife Bernice and their four grandchildren, Graham, Nolan, Carson and Miranda; Jacqueline Galloway and her husband Eldon and their children Elwyn and Ashley; Alberta Agriculture farm safety program representatives, Solomon Kyeremanteng, Eric Jones and Marj Martin; and Tofield area farm family, Peter and Yvonne Brown and their children, Douglas, Chris, June, Deanna and Candace.

(Cont'd)

Farm families get behind safety hike (cont'd)

Jacqueline Galloway, left, Shirley Cripps, and Ralph Jesperson help some young people with their Safety Hike checklists during a tour of the Cripps' farm.

The safety hike was guided by a booklet which contained a 12-point checklist of safety aspects around the house, barn, fuel-storage area, shop, farm yard, grain storage facilities, wells and dugouts, chemical storage area, machinery, livestock, the garden and even the family members.

The farm family was to follow through the guide, making a physical inspection of the sites listed, and check-off "yes" or "no" answers about their state of preparedness. As each stage was completed a family member was to color in a section of a chart showing the progress of the tour.

The completed chart should now be sent to a Women of Unifarm member. The family will then receive a magnetic plaque recognizing their participation.

August 31 is the deadline for farm families to submit their colored art work for the plaques. Alberta Agriculture district offices can provide names of area Women of Unifarm representatives.

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Contact: Jacqueline Galloway 998-0701

Eric Jones 427-2186

Editor's Note

Following is a three-part feature on Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch in Lacombe.

The feature includes one overall summary of the branch's work and two separate stories on the major functions it provides.

The branch which has a well-established reputation will be holding its annual research field day August 7.

There is no specific time element in the feature and it is written so each story can stand alone or be used as part of a series.

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Field crops branch has world-class reputation

Lacombe may not be known as the agricultural mecca of North America, but on the doorstep of this central-Alberta community Alberta Agriculture scientists and specialists have built a world-class reputation for their crop research and production work.

The department's field crops branch has cultivated the respect of farmers, agronomists and researchers around the world for their expertise and accomplishments with cereal, oilseed, forage and special crops.

Doug Cooper, who heads the staff made up of 25 professional, technical and support staff members in Lacombe, says the record at field crops branch is a credit to employee talent and dedication.

"We feel a tremendous responsibility to producers and the agriculture industry in general," he says. "Our work here has a direct impact not only on the crops grown today, but on crops that will be grown in the future. Our specialists feel a commitment to their work and to the farmers of Alberta."

The field crops branch, one of the five branches within the department's plant industry division, has two main functions.

One is to provide Alberta farmers with crop production recommendations. This is advice - the extension work, the how-to kind of information - on what crop varieties are suited to different areas of the province. Along with this they offer management guidelines to achieve optimum yield quality and quantity.

The second function is feed grain breeding and special crops breeding research. This involves developing higher yielding crop varieties adapted to Alberta's varied growing conditions. This is the high tech world of taking basic genetic material and breeding in characteristics such as greater resistance to disease, drought, lodging, pests and salinity.

Field crops branch scientists operate one of the largest barley breeding programs in the world. In 15 years of work - a short period in plant breeding terms - they have developed and had registered four new barley varieties and one triticale variety.

(Cont'd)

Although independent in description, the research and production functions operate in tandem to achieve branch objectives.

"This is very much a boots-in-the-field operation," says Cooper. "We're dealing with practical research and extension work. Farmers can use the information we have, today, out in the field, to improve crop production efficiency and management ."

Field crops work has historically been part of Alberta Agriculture. Its identity as a branch was created in the 1960's with the establishment of the plant industry division.

Feed grain research was started by the University of Alberta in Edmonton in 1973. It was a joint venture between the department and the university before being taken over fully by Alberta Agriculture in the mid-1970's.

The branch began its research and production work in Lacombe in 1978 before the office and other support buildings were built.

Today, headquartered at the provincial agriculture centre shared with Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, field crops branch conducts plot trials and production testing on about 400 acres just southeast of the Lacombe townsite. Another 100 acres around Alberta are also rented for plot trials.

As well Lacombe's research plots extend to Hermiston Oregon and California's Imperial Valley to take advantage of the coastal climate. In winter the branch contracts the plant breeding facilities of both Oregon State University and the University of California, to allow field plot research work to continue year round.

Specialists, under the supervision of Bob Nelson, are responsible for production information on cereals and oilseed crops, special crops, perennial forages, annual forages, range management and seed technology.

Research, headed by Dr. Jim Helm, focuses on developing improved varieties of barley, as well as spring and winter triticale, and winter wheat.

"On one hand our job is to develop new varieties that can improve crop production and efficiency," says Cooper. "On the other it is to take this information, as well as technology from all other sources and make it available to the farmer.

(Cont'd)

"The farmer still has to make the final decision on what is right for his operation, but hopefully he will be able to make a better-informed decision."

The branch head says, in deciding what to grow, farmers should strive to blend the most suitable crop variety and latest crop production technology to achieve optimum returns.

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Contact: Doug Cooper
782-4641

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Crop research work is never done

With Alberta farmers producing about 60 per cent of the barley grown in Canada and 30 per cent of all barley grown in North America it is little surprise Alberta Agriculture operates one of the largest barley breeding programs in the world.

At the 400 acre research and production facility near Lacombe scientists with the department's field crops branch have produced four new barley varieties in 15 years.

And, according to Dr. Jim Helm, head of research, it is doubtful the need to develop new and improved varieties of feed grains will ever be satisfied.

The field crops branch, based in Lacombe since 1978, has a two-fold mandate. One is an extension function - to assess crop production information and collect facts on new technology, and get it out to farmers who can apply it to their everyday crop management. The other is research.

Branch scientists have placed the research emphasis on developing new varieties of barley, spring and winter triticale (a man-made cross between rye and wheat) and winter wheat. Some research work has also been done with special crops.

Noble, the latest barley variety developed at Lacombe by Helm, is a six-row feed barley. Wapiti is the first triticale variety developed at Lacombe by plant breeder Dr. Don Salmon. Both were registered this year.

"In working with feed grains our emphasis is on improving feed and fodder quality and production efficiency," says Helm. "New varieties are needed for different reasons. Some varieties can be developed for varied growing conditions in Alberta while others are suited to different end uses such as silage versus grain.

"Varieties can be developed that are resistant to certain diseases and soil conditions. As an example right now, because of the growing soil salinity problem we are looking at developing a barley variety which is salt tolerant."

(Cont'd)

Barley varieties developed at Lacombe include Empress and Abee, both registered in 1982. Empress is a high forage producing variety suited to higher moisture growing conditions, while Abee is a two-row heavy bushel weight variety suited to the hog and dairy feed industry.

Samson, another popular Lacombe barley variety was registered in 1985. It was the first semi-dwarf barley in Canada. A six-row feed barley, it has lodging resistance. In central Alberta Samson demonstrates the highest level of root rot resistance of any variety.

Noble, the newest barley on the block is a high yielding six-row feed barley, suited for dryer areas. It is a smooth-awn barley.

Wapiti triticale is suited for the dryer brown soil zones of Alberta and is a high yielding annual forage.

"Each variety has its special characteristics," says Helm. "Each variety is designed for specific purposes and specific conditions."

Plant breeding is no overnight trip to fame and fortune. It's a long slow process in a high tech world of matching and crossing genetic material and then waiting to see what Mother Nature does with it.

"It can take a conventional plant breeder 10 to 18 years to develop a variety that can be registered," says Helm. "Samson took 10 years to develop, and it took a total of 17 years just to find the right cross to develop the semi-dwarfs.

To assist the research process, plant breeders in Lacombe contract the services of the University of California in the Imperial Valley and the University of Oregon at Hermiston, to conduct winter plot trials.

"In winter California becomes a cheap greenhouse for our work," says the research head. "By using their facilities we can get two years of genetic research done in one year. We can cut four or five years off the period between developing a cross and having the release of a registered variety."

Because of the time needed to develop varieties, plant breeders take the lead in predicting the demands of agricultural markets. They develop varieties to meet farmer and industry needs and improve production efficiency.

(Cont'd)

Ongoing research work at field crops branch in Lacombe tackles several production problems.

Scientists are trying to develop barley varieties that mature earlier, are disease resistant, are drought and salt tolerant, and have improved feed values through higher proteins.

Triticale is not intended to replace traditional crops, but to be one more management option for farmers. It is a player with specific talents that can be worked into a crop rotation system.

Research continues to improve both winter wheat and winter triticale. Helm says breakthroughs are near in varieties better suited for annual pasture and forage production.

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Contact: Dr. Jim Helm
782-4641

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Specialists deliver crop production message

It takes more than a few seminars to get ever-changing crop production and research information out to the more than 57,000 farmers in Alberta. And Alberta Agriculture's crop production staff in Lacombe meets the challenge head on.

The extension wing of the department's field crops branch knows the best crop research and production information in the world is no good to farmers if it sits in a filing cabinet.

Backed by their own production trials data, and technical information collected from other sources, the specialists use every angle they can to get the message out to farmers.

They make sure current information is in the hands of the front line force - the district agriculturists. They update and add to the nearly 200 publications available on crop varieties and management advice. They use the media, field plot tours, on-farm demonstrations and field days to highlight crop production advances. They work closely with producer groups and the industry on production programs. And, when possible, they get out in the field for one-to-one problem solving with farmers.

"We strive to be non-biased advisors," says Bob Nelson, supervisor of the crop production section. "We're not here to tell farmers what to grow or direct their operations. But we are here to make them aware of the options available and provide the basic production recommendations. It's our job to let them know what crops will grow in their area, explain the type of management required and describe expected yields. It's still up to the farmers to make the final decision about what to put in the ground."

The crop production section is an arm of the department's field crops branch which has been based in Lacombe since 1978. The branch's other main function is conducting research into new varieties of barley, winter wheat, and spring and winter triticale.

(Cont'd)

Crop production specialists operate on a two-way frequency with researchers. They collect and distribute information provided by scientists on production changes and new crop varieties, as well as make scientists aware of crop production problems and variety weaknesses.

Nelson heads a seven-man team specializing in cereal crops, oilseed crops, special crops, perennial forages, annual forages, seed technology and range management.

They keep pace with technological advances, and field plot trials to determine the yield response of crop varieties under different management regimes.

They work with producer groups such as canola and barley growers, forage associations, and seed cleaning plant cooperatives to promote proper production techniques and maintain industry standards.

They also co-ordinate production activities with agri-industry, processors, and elevator companies to make sure the flow of technical information keeps pace with production and market demands.

"As an example, there has been a dramatic increase in field pea production," says Nelson. "Many producers are growing peas for the first time. We are working closely with industry to provide the production information farmers need to grow this special crop."

Nelson says the expertise of Alberta crop production specialists is recognized internationally.

"Our work in Alberta has significantly advanced North American technology in forage seed production and we also have a well respected reputation for our range management expertise," he says. "As well our forage and oilseed specialists have travelled to China, India and Poland to share our technology with the agriculture industries in those countries."

The supervisor says development of new varieties, in itself, will not guarantee producers improved crop yield and farm profitability.

(Cont'd)

"A particular variety should be considered as another management tool a farmer can use," says Nelson. "Farmers have to set production goals and decide which variety, for their management ability, is best going to achieve that end. When we look at production goals, farmers must appreciate that many management factors are important including crop variety."

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Contact: Bob Nelson
782-4641

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Alberta products promoted in California

Consumers in part of the United States southwest had an opportunity to taste Alberta food products during a recent in-store promotion in California, Arizona and Nevada.

Alberta Agriculture's market development division was involved in the promotion of Alberta foods in the Los Angeles division of the Safeway food store chain.

The "Taste of Canada" promotion involved 190 stores in a division that stretches from the Mexican border, as far north as Fresno. The division includes part of Arizona and Nevada. Safeway has 13.3 per cent of the market in southern California, which has a population of 16 million.

The "Taste of Canada" promotion was advertised in a flyer published by Safeway and offered prizes of 10 trips for two to Alberta for five days via Canadian International Air.

The six Alberta companies and products represented in the promotion were Bee Maid (honey), Cheemo (perogies), Drummond (beer, Clark label), Fletcher's (bacon), Gainers (pork), and Sunland (cookies). One third of the total Canadian sales over the week long promotion were from Alberta.

Wilf Walker, market development trade director for the west coast, hosted a reception and showed a group of Safeway executives the "Alberta Advantage" video.

The video produced by Alberta Agriculture emphasizes the diversity of agriculture in the province.

Walker told the group that "Alberta would like to see a reduction in the present extensive trade deficit in agriculture that exists with California, mainly due to fruit and vegetable importations."

The trade director said Canadian processors were pleased to have the opportunity to promote their products in California and hoped that "Canada Week" would continue. John Rodgers, Safeway marketing operations manager for the 190-store division said the 1988 promotion will be "bigger and better."

For more information contact Wilf Walker at market development, Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton at 427-4241.

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Contact: Wilf Walker - 427-4241

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Visiting the Northwest Territories

Ten senior Alberta 4-H members are part way through their tour of northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The ten delegates accompanied by volunteer 4-H leader Lauretta Shuttleworth of Rolling Hills, were named to participate in the tour at the 4-H Selections program earlier this year. They left July 23 and will return August 3. The agriculturally oriented tour, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, will deal with several aspects of agriculture from the producer to the finished product. Highlights of the trip include visiting the Leduc Food Processing Plant, Modern Livestock Ltd. in Clyde, Len Paulovich's Saskatoon Berry Farm in Manning, the Fort Vermilion Research Centre, the Benzanson Buffalo Ranch and the Fisons-Western Peat Moss. Shown above are 4-H officials with tour delegates, back row from left, Laurie Zayac and Brenda Polowy both of Derwent, Janet Van Roessel 4-H specialist, Val Differenz of Bruderheim, Stephen Van Meer of Onoway, Stacey Johnson of Rimbey and Monica Kirtley of Stettler. Front row from left, Loren Yaremchuk of Myrnam, Jack Marshall of Delia, Ted Youck head of the 4-H branch, Annette Boelman of Westlock and Gail Cunningham of Kelsey.

Contact: Sherry Roth
948-8513

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Provincial 4-H Dairy Show held at Red Deer

Fifteen 4-H dairy clubs from across Alberta participated in the recent 1987 Provincial 4-H Dairy Show and Team Jugding Contest at the Red Deer Westerner Exhibition grounds.

4-H participants from the Western Canada Classics Qualifying Show and the Provincial 4-H Dairy Show took part in a grooming competition, with Eric Klugkist from Spruce View club earning top honors.

Martin Staub of Rollyview Dairy Club earned top individual honors in the contest and also placed first in the pedigree class. Karen Kamps of Lacombe was top individual judge for the Ayrshire class and Greg Thimer of East Edmonton scored highest overall in the Holstein Class.

Eric Klugkist of Spruce View placed first in the Jersey Class.

The top individual in "reasons" was won by Greg Thimer, with second place going to Eric Klugkist. Dave Trautman of Bashaw Dairy placing third.

Rollyview 4-H Dairy Club and Mountain View Dairy Club were the top teams in the contest.

Awards were presented following a banquet sponsored by the Westerner Exposition and Central Alberta Dairy Pool.

The official opening of the Provincial 4-H Dairy Show took place at 1 p.m. July 18.

Among those participating in the official opening of the July 18 Provincial 4-H Dairy Show were Gail Cunningham of Bawlf, 1987 Premier's Award winner from Bawlf and Dominique Nelis of Hays, 1987 Alberta Dairy Princess.

Judge Marg Atkins from Rollyview placed the confirmation classes assisted by junior judge Greg Thimer.

Corry Gross from Rollyview showed the champion calf, and Jayne Mooy of Lacombe had the reserve champion entry. The junior yearling class was won by Greg Thimer of East Edmonton.

(Cont'd)

Provincial 4-H Dairy Show held at Red Deer (cont'd)

Darren Lind of Twilite Club, near Athabasca, had the reserve champion entry for the junior. The yearling champion and the reserve champion were won by Pat McAllister of Mountain View, and Leonard Congdon from Bashaw Club. David Trautman of Bashaw showed the champion two year old, and Darren Hipkin's cow was chosen as reserve champion.

First in the herd class was exhibited by Bashaw Club with second place shown by East Edmonton Club.

David Trautman's entry was chosen as the Supreme Grand Champion and Darren Hipkin's was selected as Supreme Reserve Grand Champion.

Dr. David Chalack from Calgary judged the showmanship class. Beverley Congdon of Bashaw took top honors for the third year in a row. Rob Crest, top showman, earned second place.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2451

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

30 clubs participate in beef heifer show

There were winners from every region of the province at the recent 4-H 1987 Beef Heifer Show in Bashaw.

Thirty clubs ranging from Peace River to Bow Island were involved in the 11th Annual Show and Judging Competition.

The show is designed to encourage involvement in the 4-H beef breeding project, says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist with Alberta Agriculture, in Edmonton.

"Its goal is to provide an enjoyable educational format for members to display their knowledge of showing, fitting and judging beef cattle," he says.

Eighty-two competitors were involved in the judging competition in which Bill Janssen Jr. of the Red Deer East club took first and Stacy Johnson of the Bluffton West club took second. The Spruce Grove team of Scott Van Vlict, James Schwindt and Kevin Porter came in first and the team of Karrie Werenka, Kirk Wildman and Brett Wildman placed second.

Twenty-one teams took part in the Team Grooming Competition in which the team from Sangudo placed first in the Senior division followed by a team from Okotoks. The team members for Sangudo were Karrie Werenka, Brett Wildman and Kirk Wildman while the Okotoks team was comprised of Susan Knight, Dusti Beaton and Derri Beaton. In the Junior section the Daysland team of Trevor Ronsko, Kim Hoinick and Tammy Ronsko placed first. Janeen Barry and Ronalee Hunter of the Athabasca Beef club took second in the class.

The show had Junior and Senior Freshman classes which combined points for showmanship and the conformation of the show animal. Thirty members participated with Guy Smith from the Knee Hill Valley club placing first in the Junior Freshman class and Lorena Reinhardt from Crowfoot coming second.

(Cont'd)

30 clubs participate in beef hiefer show (cont'd)

In the Senior Freshman classes Gail Cunningham from Bawlf Beef took top honors while Teresa McLaren from the East Ponoka club placed second.

Eight-one 4-H'ers participated in the Showmanship classes, with Brett Wildman from Sangudo taking top showman and Dusti Beaton from Okotoks taking second.

The club Herdsmanship Competition which is based on the neatness and cleanliness of the stall area was awarded to the Grande Prairie club.

In the purebred, recorded and crossbred conformation classes 86 entries were displayed and evaluated.

Supreme Grand Champion Purebred was exhibited by Lorena Reinhardt from the Crowfoot club with Derri Beaton from the Okotoks club displaying reserve.

Supreme Grand Champion Crossbred was shown by Andy Kotowich from the St. Paul club followed by Michelle Gottenbos from the St. Paul in reserve.

Major sponsors of this Provincial 4-H event were the Bashaw Agriculture Society, Stettler Auction Market, Alberta Agriculture 4-H Branch and Agriculture Canada.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Photos presented to first exchange delegates

Two delegates participating in the first Royal Bank 4-H Interprovincial Exchange program 25 years ago were presented with commemorative photos at a recent dinner in Calgary. John Briggs of Sherwood Park, left and Angus Park of Trochu, right, were presented with photos of themselves taken in 1963 when they were about to leave as youthful delegates to the first Interprovincial 4-H Exchange sponsored by the Royal Bank. Keith Sveinson, centre, Royal Bank agricultural representative is shown holding a plaque presented by Alberta Agriculture to the bank. The anniversary celebration was held in conjunction with the annual "send off" of Alberta 4-H members participating in the exchange. This year five 4-H delegates from Alberta went on exchange to British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The Royal Bank has been the sole contributor to the national exchange and is the only sponsor in the history of the Canadian 4-H Council to have such a long-standing commitment. Over the years more than 1,900 Canadian 4-H members, including more than 200 from Alberta have benefited from the program. Briggs and Park were among the first group of 10 Alberta 4-H members to participate in the exchange.

Contact: Bob Coe
427-2127

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Free trade on Dairy Congress agenda

Alberta dairymen concerned about the long term impact of a comprehensive free-trade agreement between Canada and the U.S. will be interested in two speakers attending the Alberta Dairy Congress in Leduc this week.

Conference organizers say while the federal government assures farmers the dairy industry is not "on the table" at the trade talks, many milk producers remain concerned about the effects the agreement will have on the dairy industry.

Questions exist about how the quota system in Canada will be affected. Would freer trade cause the value of quota to decline? Would freer trade affect fluid milk quota and leave the milk processing industry unchanged?

The July 28 and 29 Alberta Dairy Congress has invited two speakers to address this topic.

Jim Wardenburg, chairman of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, will describe Canadian milk producers' perspective on this issue. James Barr, chief executive officer with the National (U.S.) Milk Producers Federation, will discuss the views of milk producers' from the other side of the 49th parallel.

For more information contact Janette McDonald-Adam at 986-2251.

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Contact: Janette McDonald-Adam
986-2251

Editor's Note

Following are three stories by Gerd Andres of the farm business management branch in Olds dealing with the impact of the proposed federal tax reforms on agricultural quotas.

The articles will be of interest to farmers who produce under quota systems such as dairy and poultry producers.

The stories are written to stand alone or they can be run as a series.

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

No more spread for quota

For many dairy and poultry farmers who own quota, the June 18 Tax Reform information presented by Federal Finance Minister Michael Wilson contains some not so good news.

Two farm management economists with Alberta Agriculture farm business management branch in Olds, say Wilson's tax reform is amending the rules for eligible capital property (quota falls under this category).

Merle Good, farm tax management specialist says "the reform that has the biggest affect on farmers, is the rule that will not allow farmers to spread their tax liability of selling quota over the years when payment is received for the quota".

Gerd Andres, supervisor of farm planning with the branch says, "this change has considerable ramifications to the farmer. Before, if a farmer sold his quota but received payment over a five year period, the tax liability of selling that quota could also be spread over the five years.

Now, (as of June 18, 1987) farmers will not be able to spread their tax liability and will be hit by a large tax bill based on the entire selling price of their quota in the year of sale. This ultimately means a higher tax bill for selling quota".

For example, if a farmer sold his quota for $200,000 and he had only $5,000 remaining in his eligible capital pool, the taxable income on the sale would be $95,000 (($200,000 divided by 2) - $5,000). If this amount was taxable in one year, the tax for 1987 would be $46,360 ($95,000 x 48.8%). On the other hand if the $95,000 taxable income was spread over five years, the tax liability every year for five years would total approximately $24,700. ($95,000 divided by 5 yrs = $19,000 x 26% (tax rate) = $4,940 per yr x 5 yrs).

(Cont'd)

No more spread for quota (cont'd)

The fact that the spread has now been eliminated means a higher tax liability for farmers who sell quota over time. Ultimately this tax amendment will affect intergeneration transfers between family members.

If a farmer decides to sell his quota, it is advised that he consult his accountant before the sale.

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Contact: Gerd Andres
556-4277

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

How tax reform affects farm quotas

The June 18 tax reform white paper presented by the federal government contains some new rules about eligible capital property such as agricultural quotas, which could come into effect next year, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

The proposed changes would come into affect for individuals in 1988 or for corporations whose fiscal period begins after June 30, 1988.

Gerd Andres, supervisor of farm planning with the farm business management branch in Olds, says the following changes were made:

1. Purchase of quota will be added to the eligible capital property pool at the rate of three-quarter rather than one-half. This, according to Andres, means that if a farmer buys $100,000 worth of quota, $75,000 of that value can be placed in the eligible capital property pool for depreciation purposes.
2. The disposition or sale of quota will result in a three-quarter inclusion in the pool instead of one-half. An example of this move is when a farmer sells his quota for $150,000, three-quarters of that sale is used for calculating tax liability. The calculation would be as follows:

   Value of quota sale times 75 per cent, minus remaining eligible capital pool, times the farmer's tax rate. If a farmer has $7,500 remaining in the pool and has a tax rate of 35 per cent then the tax liability would be $36,750. (($150,000 x 75%) - 7,500 x 35%).
3. The rate at which quota may be written-off will be reduced to seven per cent on a declining balance basis instead of the 10 per cent as was done previously.

   The implication of this rule is that quota cannot be written off as fast as a farmer used to.
4. The 1987 balance of a taxpayer's pool of eligible capital property will be increased by 50 per cent for 1988.

(Cont'd)

Andres said all this means is that if a farmer has a cumulative eligible capital property of $10,000 at the end of 1987, that pool for 1988 will increase to $15,000 ($10,000 x 1.5), which now can be depreciated at a declining balance of seven per cent.

"The net effect of these changes, is that when a farmer sells his quota there could now be a higher tax liability than before the rule changes of June 18, 1987," says the specialist.

Andres suggests producers should ask their accountants about these changes and how it may affect their operation, especially for those thinking about selling all or part of their operations.

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Contact: Gerd Andres
556-4277

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

When is the best time to sell agriculture quota?

Farmers thinking of selling dairy or poultry quota within the next year, should have a look at the federal June 18 tax reform measures to see how the sale of quota affects taxable income.

Merle Good, a farm tax management specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds, says, "it appears that if the sale of quota occurs after December 31, 1987, taxable income from that sale increases by 50 per cent compared to the same sale before January 1, 1988."

Gerd Andres, supervisor of farm planning and dairy specialist with the branch says the following example supports Good's conclusion.

A farmer bought fluid quota in 1982 for $20,000 and will sell it now for $200,000. The 1987 cumulative eligible capital property pool is $5,315. If the sale occurs before January 1, 1988, only one-half of the sale ($200,000) is considered for calculating taxable income. Thus, taxable income for the sale of quota is $96,685. ($200,000 x 0.5 - $5,315). Thus, $96,685 is then added to the rest of the farmer's taxable income and taxed at whatever the farmer's tax rate is.

If the sale occurs after December 31, 1987, the tax rules for eligible capital property change. First, the 1987 cumulative eligible capital property pool is increased by 50 per cent and second three-quarters of the sale is considered in calculating taxable income. This means that for this example, the cumulative eligible capital property pool has now increased to $7,973 for 1988 ($5,315. x 1.5) and the sale figure used in calculating taxable income has now increased to $150,000. ($200,000 x 0.75). Thus, taxable income for the sale of quota in 1988 is $142,027 ($200,000 x 0.75 - $7,973).

This is a 50 per cent increase in taxable income compared to the same sale in 1987.

(Cont'd)

When is the best time to sell agricultural quota? (cont'd)

"This example illustrates the advantage of selling quota in 1987 compared to 1988 if the selling price of quota and a farmer's total taxable income from the rest of his farming operation doesn't change," says Andres.

"Farmers should talk to their accountants and look at their own situation to see how and if the tax changes affect the intended sale of quota."

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Contact: Gerd Andres
556-4277

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Tour will focus on maximum economic yield plots

Farmers and agri-businessmen interested in learning more about the concept of maximum economic yield should take part in an Edmonton-area tour August 7.

Co-sponored by Alberta Agriculture and the University of Alberta the Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) Tour will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the U of A research farm, plant science lab, (60th Avenue and 116th Street just west of the Alberta School For The Deaf).

Bill Chapman, regional crop production specialist in Barrhead says the tour will cover MEY techniques of fertility, growth regulators, plant density and fungicides on spring wheat research trials.

Other sites include Canada Grains Council field scale plots at Fuhr's Farm at Spruce Grove, and a copper plot in co-operation with the Stony Plain district office and Alberta Agriculture's soils branch.

The final stop for the tour is Alberta Agriculture's MEY trial at the Prentice Farm near Calmar. The plots include barley, canola and wheat trials under north central conditions.

The tour, which was previously a plant science field day, will now be co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and the U of A.

Chapman says the tour committee is providing transportation and lunch at $20 per person. Please pre-register by calling 674-8259 or 134-1258 (RITE) before August 4.

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Contact: Bill Chapman
674-8259

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Report prepared on custom fertilizer application rates

Some 207 custom operators and dealers in Alberta have responded to a telephone survey of their rates for fertilizer application.

Craig Edwards, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture at Olds says the information collected by Maureen Whitlock of the statistics branch in co-operation with the farm business management branch, has been been published in a report.

The survey shows that surface or broadcast application of granular fertilizer with truck mount, pull type and floater implements by custom operators cost farmers from $2 to $3.50 per acre with $3 being most common.

Rental rates varied from 50 cents to $3 per acre with $1 acre being most quoted. Day rates were $20 to $75 per day, most about $40. Rental charges per tonne were in the $4 to $10 range with $6 the most common.

Under-the-surface custom application with drills and air seeders cost from $5 to $8 per acre with most responses at $6 to $7.

Custom airplane broadcasting ranged from $3 to $5 an acre with most common rate at $3.50.

Liquid fertilizer application charges were just a bit higher at $3.50 to $4 per acre most common. Airplane application was $3.35 to $5.50 depending on amount applied. Highest charges were for deep banding liquid at $8.50 per acre. Rental rates for equipment were from 50 cents to $1.50 per acre with most at $1.50 per acre.

Anhydrous ammonia application costs for renting equipment varied from $1.40 to $1.50 an acre (few responses) and from $30 to $80 per tonne with the highest costs including delivery. Dual banding of granular and anhydrous was quoted at $7.50 to $8.50 per acre as a custom operator charge.

The analysis did not show any identifiable significant change in the 1987 rates from the 1986 rates, Edwards states.

(Cont'd)

Report prepared on custom fertilizer application rates (cont'd)

For more information, write Craig Edwards, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or phone (403) 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

July 27, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

PRODUCERS INVITED TO LACOMBE FIELD DAY

Alberta farmers are invited to the August 7 crops research field day at the Alberta Agriculture field crops branch in Lacombe. This annual event provides farmers an opportunity to meet specialists and scientists and receive a guided tour of the research plots. The branch specializes in research involving new varieties of barley, spring and winter triticale (a man-made cross between rye and wheat) and winter wheat. Some research work has also been done with special crops. Producers are encouraged to be at the field crops branch research centre, one mile south of Lacombe on the east side of Highway 2A at 1 p.m. For more information contact the field crops branch at 782-4641.

FIELD PEA TOUR PLANNED IN LACOMBE COUNTY

Field pea growers in the County of Lacombe should plan to attend a field pea tour August 5 leaving from the Lacombe Agriculture Building at 9:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Alberta Pulse Growers Association and the Alberta Agriculture district office, the day-long tour will make several stops to look a pea fields in the county. There will be several speakers on production and marketing participating in the tour. For more information contact association director Craig Shaw at 782-6618, or district agriculturists Neil Miller or Stuart Tucker at 782-3301 or 342-2813.

FUEL DEMONSTRATION HEADS TO PEACE RIVER

Alberta Agriculture's farm tractor fuel efficiency demonstration will making a tour of the Peace River region through August, beginning in High Prairie on August 4. The tractor has been specially equipped with an on-board computer to show how operating the tractor in different gears at different throttle can affect fuel use. Farmers are urged to contact their district agriculturist for demonstration locations. The demonstration will be in the High Prairie, August 4; Valleyview, August 5; Debot, August 6; Grande Prairie/Sexsmith, August 7 and Valhalla Centre/Beaverlodge, August 8.

(Cont'd)

SWEET CRAVING MAY BE TIED TO STRESS

Looking for something sweet when you feel stressed or eating under stress are more than figments of an imagination. Suzanne Tenold, an Alberta Agriculture food and nutrition specialist in Airdrie in her summer issue of the Food and Nutrition Matters newsletter says a recent international symposium discussed the issue. The International Symposium on Sweetners in Geneva described the mechanisms that underlie the positve affect of sweetners. The theory under investigation focuses on "opioids", chemicals produced normally by the body in response to different situations including stress. Opioids released after ingestion of sucrose (sugar) may reduce the level of stress, the symposium heard. Thus, the link of "stress feeding" (eating under stress). Another point made at the conference was that a person is born with a sweet tooth. The experts reported that withholding sweet foods during formative years will not affect adult preference, nor is it likely to deter overweight in predisposed individuals. Further work is needed to fully realize the implications of sweetness on our life and our living. For more information contact Suzanne Tenold in Airdrie at 948-8575.

HANNA AREA FARMER NAMED PROVINCIAL WINNER

Norman Storch and his wife Leona, of Hanna have been named the Alberta winner of the Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers program. The Storch's who operate a mixed farm that includes a 6,400 hen broiler hatcher egg operation, 1,600 acres of grain and 80 head of beef cattle, will be among eight national finalists competing for the honor of top farmer in Canada. The annual competition sponsored by the Canadian Jaycees and the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede each year selects three winners from the eight regional finalists to receive the W.R. Motherwell Award. The Storch's who have been farming for 13 years, are involved in many associations and organizations including the Alberta Hatching Egg Board, the 4-H program and soil conservation projects. The outstanding young farmers will be selected at a competition in Calgary in mid-October. For more information contact program spokesman Bruce Lee at 934-4866.

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AGRI-NEWS

AUG 25 1987

August 3, 1987

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

Agriculture display is a hit

Alberta Agriculture's new information display is earning good reviews as it makes the rounds to fairs and trade shows this summer and fall.

Sharon Abbott, display co-ordinator says general response from the thousands who have visited the 10 by 20 foot floor display has been positive.

The display which was just in Grande Prairie and travels to Olds later this week, has wrapped up visits to Stettler and a 10-day showing at Klondike Days in Edmonton. It began its summer tour at the Calgary Stampede in early July. It will be featured at several more fairs and special events through August and into November.

The display message is aimed at an urban audience, reinforcing the fact that agriculture is everyone's business. The display theme is "If you eat you are involved in agriculture".

Abbott says the message is delivered through large color photos and key information panels. Also there is a video message from Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga and Associate Minister Shirley Cripps discussing the role of agriculture in the province.

"We have found that most visitors to the display are aware of agricultural issues and appreciate the problems farmers are facing today," says Abbott.

The display graphics and video deals with five areas: importance of agriculture to the economy; Alberta farm products; feeding the world; challenges in farming; and the government's commitment to agriculture.

The co-ordinator says people are often surprised by the extent agriculture affects their lives and at the range of food products grown and processed in Alberta.

The public is also invited to fill out a contest questionnaire, with the answers gleaned from information provided in the booth. Draws were made in Calgary and Edmonton for a farm vacation for a family of four, while in each of the other centres, a draw will be made for a $50 food hamper.

"The display is attractive and presents the information well," says Abbott. "We have had a number of requests from people wanting more information or wanting a copy of the video."

(Cont'd)

Agriculture display is a hit (cont'd)

Alberta
Food For 4
WIN
An Alberta Country Vacation for 4

Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga and Associate Minister Shirley Cripps at Alberta Agriculture display at Klondike Days in Edmonton.

The booth is manned by Alberta Agriculture staff members, including many specialists who are available to answer questions.

After appearing in Olds August 7 - 9, the display is booked for the following fairs and trade shows:

Spruce Grove - August 15 - 16; Ponoka - August 18 - 19; Drayton Valley - August 21 - 22; Spruce Meadows - September 9 - 14; Edmonton Northlands Farmfair - November 5 - 14.

Abbott says for more information on agriculture displays the public can contact information services division in Edmonton at 427-2127.

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Contact: Sharon Abbott
427-2127

Editor's Note

Attached is a five-part feature on irrigation in Alberta that can be used as separate articles standing alone, or as a series. The feature has no specific time element.

As most editors and news directors are aware the growing season across Alberta started out with relatively good moisture, turned dry and now for the most part has improved again.

The series looks at the insurance role irrigation plays in agriculture, often producing a crop when "all else fails".

This feature primarily gives the background to irrigation in Alberta and highlights the contribution it makes to the provincial economy.

It quotes Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment and southern Alberta municipal officials.

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August 3, 1987
For immediate release

PART - 1

Irrigation is integral part of Alberta life

Economists may never come to an agreement on the value of irrigation.

Opponents say farmers couldn't afford the cost of irrigating crops if they didn't receive large government handouts in one form or another. And some environmentalists complain the reservoir and canal systems are a detriment to wildlife and recreation.

Proponents say you can look at the figures five ways from centre, and argue the "cons" all night, but the bottom line is that southern Alberta largely owes its existence to irrigation. And the province as a whole benefits from every dollar invested in the water works.

Irrigation - the legacy of those first Mormon settlers who decided nearly 100 years ago to divert water from a creek near Cardston - has grown into a multi-million dollar industry.

Today, 94 years after Ora Card and John Taylor formed the first irrigation company, and with only about four per cent of Alberta's seeded cropland under sprinkler heads, irrigation is responsible for producing about 20 per cent of the province's total crop production value.

There are more than 1.3 million acres in Alberta, most of it in southern Alberta, under irrigation. About 40 per cent of the irrigated land grows soft white spring wheat although there is a variety of other traditional and special crops grown as well.

The acreage figures may not mean much to the average person but the reality of Alberta's crop production under irrigation is found on almost every supper table in the province.

It's irrigation that is largely responsible for the Taber corn that's sold on many street corners every fall. Irrigation is behind the label of some of the Empress Foods, the Bel-Air frozen carrots and Taste Tells canned peas. Irrigation is behind those crispy Hostess potato chips. It's behind the label of many flours and doughs used for pastries and cookies. And it's irrigation that is behind some of that white sugar you sprinkle on your cornflakes in the morning. And those are just a few obvious examples.

(Cont'd)

Irrigation is integral part of Alberta life

But with a 1986 irrigation crop value of about $360 million, it becomes a different kind of bread and butter issue to the nearly 60,000 people who live in Lethbridge.

"It has a tremendous economic impact on our community," says Ron Simmons, a research officer with Lethbridge economic development department. "It's hard to put an exact figure on it, but it represents millions and millions of dollars to Lethbridge and southern Alberta."

Lethbridge as the regional service centre receives many direct and in-direct benefits from irrigation.

"Directly there are the irrigation supply companies that service the industry and the farm machinery manufacturers and dealers who produce and sell machinery to farmers who grow crops under irrigation, including machinery for planting and harvesting special crops such as the sugar beets.

"We have the food processing industry including companies such as Empress and Canbra which process much of the produce grown under irrigation.

"Because irrigation contributes to farmers' income we also have to recognize the millions of dollars in indirect benefits from farmers buying all kinds of goods and services from groceries to pickup trucks."

Taber Mayor George Meyer is even more emphatic.

"I think it's a stupid argument made by anyone who says irrigation doesn't pay," says Meyer. "Agriculture is the base of the Taber economy, the Calgary economy, the Edmonton economy or the economy of any other community in this province.

"All our local industries here are tied hand and glove to agriculture and in this area that means irrigation. Without it farmers here wouldn't have the variety of grain or row crops they do. We have four potato plants in this area. Taber has the only Hostess potato plant in Western Canada. We have the only sugar factory between Winnipeg and Vancouver. It is the largest in Western Canada. And we have the Empress Foods cannery in Taber. The town has all the water it needs not only for domestic use but for industry as well.

"And it's all because of irrigation. Without irrigation Taber wouldn't be here."

(Cont'd)

In Calgary, a spokesman for the city's economic development authority says irrigation and agriculture have a significant impact on the city's economy.

"It's hard for us to draw a line between what is irrigated and non-irrigated agricultural production, but it is clear that agriculture is the mainstay of Calgary," says Bruce MacDonald, executive director of the development authority.

"There are something like 12,000 people in the city who are directly employed in service to the agriculture industry. Both the irrigated and non-irrigated farm land in southern Alberta produce livestock which have made Calgary a major beef centre. And of course we have the head office and main terminals of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

"I'm sure the average person in the city of Calgary doesn't recognize the contribution agriculture makes to the economy."

Meyer disputes criticism that irrigation is a luxury.

"The dollar return to the province from irrigation is 100 fold the investment," he says. "The government puts billions into the tarsands projects in northern Alberta and no one seems to resent that. The amount invested in irrigation is small compared to the tarsands and yet the benefit to the economy is significant."

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August 3, 1987
For immediate release

PART - 2

Irrigation is agriculture's ace in the hole

Like everyone else connected with agriculture in Alberta, Akos Pungor hates reports about pending drought conditions.

Even though most of the farmers he deals with have some protection from the devastation of extended dry spells he knows in times like these there are never any winners in the contest with Mother Nature, just those who don't lose quite as much as others.

Pungor is the devote head of Alberta Agriculture's irrigation branch. From his second floor office in the agriculture complex shared by the provincial department and Agriculture Canada, he can see the well-manicured lawns surrounding the Lethbridge Research Station. Lawns kept green and robust by an automatic sprinker system.

But not far from this oasis and across a good portion of Alberta, Pungor knows farmers - in an industry tormented by tremendous variables - face the greater reality of wondering if the weather is going to cooperate this growing season.

It's not enough to just worry if markets will get worse, or wonder if interest rates will rise; to be concerned about grasshopper infestations or the risk of some sort of crop disease outbreak. Added to the list, and sometimes more frustrating than all the others, is the uncertainty about the weather.

Irrigation, says Pungor, is no guarantee of a successful crop in any given year, but it's a hedge in the high risk gamble of crop production.

And as far as he is concerned it's an investment that pays off.

"I feel this is a tremendous industry," he says, referring to irrigation. "Without irrigation, Lethbridge and most of southern Alberta wouldn't be here. It keeps us alive. Irrigation is that stablizing factor for the economy of all Alberta.

"In the worst drought circumstance, we can count on irrigation to come through."

(Cont'd)

About 1.3 million acres, or about four per cent of Alberta's arable land is under irrigation. But it produces as much as 20 per cent of the dollar value of all agricultural output in Alberta.

This comes from nearly 500,000 acres of wheat, more than 100,000 acres of barley, about 50,000 acres of canola, 32,000 acres of sugar beets, 18,000 acres of silage corn, nearly 16,000 acres of oilseeds, 14,000 acres of potatoes, 12,000 acres of corn, 12,000 acres of peas, and oats and alfalfa seed, each with about 11,000 acres.

There are also about 160,000 acres of hay land under irrigation while other smaller acreages of special crops include flax, mixed grains, canning corn, beans, greenfeed, corn silage, hay silage and mustard.

Most of this acreage lies within southern Alberta's defined irrigation districts which have well developed water storage and distribution systems.

But there are also about 250,000 acres of farm land from the Montana border to the Peace River region under individual farmer-developed systems. These producers are licensed to tap into rivers, lakes and streams to supplement their crop moisture needs.

There are two key provincial government departments playing roles in the overall irrigation structure. Alberta Environment, responsible for administering the water resource in the province, looks after the on-stream water storage and main canal distribution systems needed to get the limited amount of water available in southern Alberta to the farmer's gate.

Alberta Agriculture plays an advisory role to farmers in helping determine the type and design of on-farm irrigation systems, providing crop production recommendations and conducting research into irrigation water management.

"I believe the agricultural community using irrigation should feel a tremendous pride in what they accomplish," says Pungor, who has been with the irrigation branch for 28 years. "There are no government subsidies involved. Farmers have to look after all their on-farm costs. This includes land development and leveling costs. The capital costs, and the installation and operation costs for the irrigation system itself."

(Cont'd)

Irrigation districts are the other key players in the organized water distribution system. These elected boards, and there are 13 of them in southern Alberta, act as middlemen between Alberta Environment and farmers.

The irrigation districts are responsible for the actual allocation and distribution of water from storage reservoirs to the farmers' gate.

While Alberta Agriculture's irrigation branch is headquartered in Lethbridge, with eight regional offices from Taber to Airdrie, the staff is available to serve all irrigation projects in the province.

Created in 1950, the branch has a total of 46 full time positions including specialists such as agrologists, agricultural engineers and technical support staff.

"We work directly with farmers in the field," says Pungor. "We can't do their work or make their decisions for them, but we can provide advice and consultation, design recommendations and act as advisors to enable farmers to make the most out of the water and irrigation system available to them."

Irrigation isn't just a job for Pungor, it is a belief and a commitment.

"There is no doubt in my mind that irrigation has and continues to make a valuable contribution," he says. "By comparison, in the early 1900s there was nothing here. Irrigation took the soil and built the cities and towns and the way of life we have in southern Alberta. If it isn't worth while or isn't economical, why is it in such great demand?"

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Contact: Akos Pungor
381-5140

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

PART - 3

More to it than turning on the tap

Irrigation involves a lot more than just pumping some water out on the land and hoping the crop grows.

Because irrigation equipment can be expensive and it is most often used where there is limited water supply, it is important to get the biggest bang for the bucks, say Alberta Agriculture specialists.

Akos Pungor, head of the department's irrigation branch in Lethbridge says certain factors must be in place before irrigation becomes worth while.

He says first there must be an adequate and assured water supply. Second, the soil must be suited to handle irrigation. Third, the water supply must be available or reasonably accessible to the farmer, to make its use economical.

If these factors prove out, it then may fall to people like Bob Riewe, an irrigation management specialist with Alberta Agriculture to help producers work out the details of how to best use the water.

Riewe says about half of the farmers who walk in the door are planning to buy irrigation equipment and need advice on what system and capacity to consider. The other half are farmers who already have irrigation systems but are concerned they are not getting top water efficiency or maximum crop production.

"Really there are three basics that need to be sorted out. We help the producer understand the type of system he has or is planning to buy and point out what it can or cannot do. He has to understand how this system will work with the type of crop he is planning to grow under it. And he also has to understand how the soil will handle irrigation and the type of management required."

Riewe says especially for first-time irrigation farmers, it can be a real mystery to sort out what system is needed and what it will do.

Specialists can provide a survey of the farmer's situation and make recommendations based on the equipment he has and his management ability.

(Cont'd)

"The objective is to use the irrigation system as efficiently as possible," says Riewe. "We aim for a 70 to 80 per cent efficient use of water. In general, most water loss is not because of run off but because of evaporation and deep percolation. I would say most farmers tend to under irrigate rather than over irrigate."

Although soil and weather conditions are different, Riewe says by comparison California irrigation farmers apply an average of between 30 and 36 inches of water to crops in a growing season. In Alberta the average is between 12 and 15 inches of water over the season.

About 40 per cent of irrigation farmers in Alberta use centre pivot irrigation which involves a sprinkler pipe, anchored to a water outlet in the centre of the field. The pipe is carried on a wheeled frame a couple metres above the crop. The assembly automatically travels over the field similar to the hour hand sweeping over the face of a clock.

Another 40 per cent of farmers use wheel-move irrigation which involves a length of pipe with sprinkler heads being carried, about a metre off the ground, in a linear pattern across a field on a series of motor driven wheel assemblies. The wheel-move irrigates a rectangular area instead of a circular area.

The final 20 per cent of farmers use surface flood irrigation which basically involves controlled application of water over the soil surface.

Riewe says the type of system used depends on many individual factors such as the type of land, type of crop, the farmer's financial situation, amount of available labor, and amount of water available.

To assist farmers Alberta Agriculture offers a three year water management program. This one-to-one program involves irrigation specialists and technicians working closely with farmers to get the irrigation system set up and in operation.

In a staged program the producer learns the basics of how the system operates, learns the type of management and decision making required and learns how to manage the system himself, all under the guidance of irrigation branch staff members.

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Contact: Bob Riewe
381-5140

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

PART - 4

Taber is one jewel in the crown

Taber isn't the only area in Alberta to benefit from irrigation, but water management has turned one of the driest regions in the province into the proverbial silk purse.

There are still plenty of high producing dryland farmers in the area, who wouldn't have a sprinkler head on the place if you paid them, but irrigation allows for a range and diversity of agricultural crops found no where else in the province.

The Taber area receives an average of about 8.5 inches or 210 millimetres of precipitation during the May to September growing season.

But high heat units, combined with the longest frost free season in the province, and ample water from the Oldman River, make the range of crops grown here read like an agronomic directory.

The two and a half townships around Taber have the most diversified agriculture in Alberta. About half of the irrigated acreage is committed to soft wheat and mixed grains, about 12 per cent to sugar beets, 11 per cent to alfalfa, nine per cent to various types of corn, five per cent to pasture, three per cent to potatoes and the remaining five per cent is devoted to oilseed crops and a wide range of produce including peas, beans, carrots and corn.

Although the size of irrigation operations range from a few acres for vegetable production to several hundred acres for sugar beets or soft wheat, the average irrigated farm is about three quarter sections or about 450 acres. The average dryland farm is about three sections or 2,000 acres.

The Taber Irrigation District (TID) is one of 13 organized irrigation districts in Alberta. With about 72,000 irrigated acres within its boundaries, it's mid-range in size for irrigation districts.

(Cont'd)

The St. Mary River Irrigation District around Lethbridge is the largest, covering 313,000 acres, while the Ross Creek Irrigation District near Medicine Hat is the smallest covering 1,776 acres.

Wally Chinn, Alberta Agriculture irrigation specialist who has been in Taber for 14 years, says irrigation farming generally requires more management, but it should also pay greater dividends.

"There are dryland farmers in this area who are not interested at all in irrigation," he says. "They feel they get a greater return on investment by avoiding the capital cost of irrigation equipment and saving on the extra management it requires.

"And there are many successful dryland farmers, so we can't say that irrigation is the right way for everyone to go. What it does is provide more options, flexibility and stability. It provides a farmer with a greater range of crops that can be grown. It can offer someone with a limited land base an opportunity to expand his operation by intensifying production without buying more land. Irrigation becomes one more management tool that can be used in the overall farming operation."

Chinn estimated it costs about $400 to $600 an acre to buy and install an irrigation system, that will probably have to be replaced in about 15 years.

He says comitting a farm to irrigation also ties the farmer down more as he must make sure the system is running and delivering water as required.

"Like everything else prices go down and costs go up," says Chinn. "With that higher capital investment there has to be increased management to ensure that production is above average. It's pretty tight out there and good management is important."

All things being equal, Chinn says irrigated crop yields should be at least double dryland crop yields. As an example, he says soft wheat under irrigation should produce an average yield of more than 80 bushels per acre, where hard red spring wheat on dryland will yield an average of about 21 bushels per acre.

Similarly barley under irrigation should have an average yield of more than 90 bushels per acre compared to 49 bushels per acre on dryland.

(Cont'd)

The specialist says there is room for about another 8,000 acres within the Taber district to be brought under irrigated production.

He says along with direct benefits to farmers, irrigation also provides indirect benefits to the community.

"Irrigation creates employment in the community. The tax base also increases because irrigated land has two and a half to three times the assessment of dryland farms. And this certainly makes a difference in supporting schools and roads and other services. As well irrigation provides a water supply to many rural communities.

"Also irrigation contributes to a youthful, economic vitality in the area. Although there has been a general slow down in Alberta's economy, the impact is lessened here. Taber was one of the last places in the province to feel the crunch."

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Contact: Wally Chinn
223-7908

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

PART - 5

Benefits assured before work begins on major on-stream irrigation projects

The millions of dollars spent to create on-stream storage reservoirs and upgrade the main irrigation canal network in the southern half of the province is a benefit to all Alberta, says a spokesman for Alberta Environment.

Jake Thiessen, director of design and construction with the department in Edmonton, says the money spent in building dams, creating reservoirs and improving canals is returned to the economy several times over.

"Before we take on any major project we look at the cost/benefit," he says. "We have to be sure in our own minds that money spent on a project will be returned to the economy. We need to see a minimum $1 return for every $1 spent, but in many cases the return is two or three times the value of the investment. And the value is not only to just those people within a certain radius of the project, but to the entire provincial economy."

Alberta Environment is one of the key players in the development of Alberta's irrigation industry. The department is not involved in agriculture, but it is concerned about water management.

With about 95 per cent of consumptive water use in the South Saskatchewan River Basin (southern Alberta) devoted to irrigation, Thiessen says the department has more than passing interest in irrigation projects.

"Our authority, under The Water Resources Act, is to manage the water resources of the province," says Thiessen. "The ownership of the water that flows through major rivers and streams in Alberta has always been vested in the Crown."

(Cont'd)

Benefits assured before work begins (cont'd)

In the organized irrigation districts Alberta Environment issues water use licences to the district which in turn handles the actual allocation of water to farmers. In unorganized areas the department directly issues water use licences to farmers drawing water from river or stream for irrigation purposes.

Environment has responsibility for building the irrigation infrastructure for three main reasons. Most projects are too costly for farmers to undertake. The department wants to maintain control of the resource. And they want projects designed and managed for multiple use.

"When we look at the cost/benefit of a project we determine its value according to its primary use. If a project is going to be used mainly for irrigation, we want to make sure the returns are there in agricultural production. But aside from that, projects provide other indirect benefits such as recreation or community water sources. The value of these indirect benefits is really the icing on the cake."

Thiessen says the indirect benefits are not trivial. He says as examples, many communities -thousands of people - in southern Alberta rely on the irrigation system to provide domestic and industrial water supply. As well the recreation value derived from camping, picnicing and boating around reservoir parks is calculated in hundreds of thousands of recreation man-days.

Alberta Environment's latest on-stream storage project is the $349 million Oldman River Dam Project near Pincher Creek. To be completed in the fall of 1990, the 249 foot-high (76 metre) dam will have capacity to hold back 400,000 acre feet of water. (An acre/foot of water is enough water to cover one acre of land with 12 inches of water).

The project will have a peak work force of 700 men, and over its five year construction period will create 2,100 man years of work.

The reservoir will provide three main benefits.

It will regulate the flow of water through the Oldman River, providing a reliable water supply to downstream communities.

The reservoir will maintain the level of the flow in the Oldman River to improve the downstream fisheries value.

(Cont'd)

Benefits assured before work begins (cont'd)

And the stored water will allow another 170,000 acres of agricultural land to be brought under irrigation. This acreage won't be all in one block, but will be spread along the east bound river system to farmers both inside and outside organized irrigation districts.

Project spokesman, Anne Marie Downey, says the benefit of the Oldman River Dam Project is expected to return $2.17 to the economy for every $1 invested.

It is expected to generate a $42 million annual increase in net direct and indirect income from agricultural production and create 1,700 permanent new jobs over the long term.

The project has drawn criticism from environmentalists concerned about fish and wildlife habitat and from some landowners displaced by the reservoir behind the dam. But the government remains firm in its belief that the benefits far out weigh any drawbacks.

Thiessen says Alberta Environment is sensitive to the concerns and tries to minimize the negative impact caused by major projects.

While irrigation is one of the department's main emphasis in southern Alberta, it deals with a wide range of water-related projects across Alberta.

He says while lack of water is problem in the south, Environment has to turn its thinking the opposite way in other parts of Alberta as it provides services ranging from drainage and flood control to erosion control projects.

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Contact: Jake Thiessen
427-6153

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

Chart book of livestock and grain trends published

The 1987 edition of a chart book covering livestock and market trends for the past 18 months is now available from Alberta Agriculture.

The latest volume of The Weekly Livestock and Grain Market Charts, which has been published by the department since 1979, has just been released.

The book, of value to farmers and agri-business representatives, shows what the prices and volumes for a wide range of agriculture commodities have done over the past year and a half.

The chart book is a recap of the "Weekly" publication produced by the Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch. The "Weekly" provides an ongoing market update and analysis for major crops and livestock.

The chart book is a summary of the "Weekly" information, using 54 graphs and 11 tables to illustrate the figures.

Pat Olson, data systems supervisor with the branch, says the chart book covers market prices and volumes primarily from January 1986 to June 1987. She says demand for the chart book is increasing as those involved in the agriculture industry keep track of commodity trends over the years.

Market analysis branch head, David Walker, describes the chart book as a "publication designed to provide a medium term perspective on market price and volume trends."

A free copy of The Weekly Livestock and Grains Market Charts is available by writing Alberta Agriculture, Market Analysis Branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or by calling 427-5378.

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Contact: David Walker
427-7132

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

Animal industry division changes announced

The director of Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division has announced personnel and administrative changes affecting three branches within the division.

Ken Spiller says the changes, including the appointment of two branch heads, become effective immediately.

William (Bill) Herbert has been named head of the regulatory services branch, while Tom Sydness assumes the position of head of the poultry branch.

Regulatory services branch is responsible for functions such as brand recording and inspection, while the poultry branch provides professional and technical support to the Alberta poultry industry.

"Both men have served the department for several years in management capacities," says Spiller.

Prior to his appointment, Herbert was head of the poultry branch, while Sydness was general manager of the marketing council. Sydness had previously worked as a poultry specialist.

The third change involves the transfer of the administration of the Feeder Association Guarantee Act to the horse industry branch under the direction of branch head, Doug Milligan.

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Contact: Ken Spiller
427-5091

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

New films released by Alberta Agriculture

Alberta Agriculture has just released three new films produced for interests ranging from cow-calf operators, to farmers considering special crops, to those involved in the indoor landscaping business.

The three productions, now available from the department's free film lending service, are tailored to help farmers or horticulturists improve management ability and make better business decisions.

Created by award winning producer, Tom Dodd, the films offer a range of style and tone from a straight forward look at how to raise a healthy calf, to a more humorous treatment of the multi-million dollar business of indoor plant care.

"The Lively Calf - Herd Reproductive Management" is a 20 minute film on the importance of managing a cow herd before and during pregnancy to produce a healthy, "lively" calf at calving time, with fewer problems.

The film covers the major points of achieving proper herd condition, providing suitable calving facilities and recognizing the signs of when to intervene if the cow or heifer is having calving difficulty.

"The ultimate goal of the film is to show producers how to raise more and healthier calves with fewer problems and, as a result, improves profitability," says Dodd.

"The Lively Calf" was filmed, in part, at the Douglas Lake Ranch in the Interior of B.C. and on several cow/calf operations in Alberta.

Copies are available in 16 millimetre film as well as on VHS and Beta video cassettes.

"Thinking Alternatively" is a 27 minute film geared for producers thinking about growing special crops. Dodd says the production doesn't go into the agronomics of how to grow any particular crop, but highlights the major production and marketing points to be considered.

"The film really deals with the thought process farmers should use when thinking about growing something other than the three traditional crops grown on the prairies," says Dodd.

(Cont'd)

"Producers have to think about which special or alternative crops are suitable to their soils and climate, the type of machinery needed to produce that crop, the level of management required, the availability of markets and other aspects."

Dodd says the film emphasizes the complex nature of today's marketplace.

"Thinking Alternatively" is available in 16 millimetre film or on VHS or Beta video cassettes.

The third film, "The Atrium File" offers a lighter treatment to the multi-million dollar industry of designing, buying and maintaining plants for indoor landscaping.

Although it is targeted at commercial contractors involved in the industry, Dodd says it is also of interest to everyone involved in growing tropical plants, including the home gardener.

"This upbeat production is done in the form of a television newscast," says Dodd. "It is the story of a reporter investigating the reasons why a tropical plant died in an atrium.

"Through this entertaining technique all aspects of indoor plant care are explored."

The 25 minute film features Barbara Kelly, formerly a newscaster with ITV news in Edmonton, and Fred Keating and Larry Musser, two prominent Edmonton actors, in the lead roles.

"The Atrium File" is available on VHS and Beta video cassette only.

For more information on the new films contact the Alberta Agriculture, Broadcast Media Branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6 or phone 427-2127.

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Contact: Tom Dodd
427-2127

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

Tips for managing cows on "dried up" pastures

Although late July rains have improved pasture conditions across most of the province, producers should realize there are options besides selling the herd when forage supplies are short.

An Alberta Agriculture specialist says although the immediate threat of pasture shortages has passed in most areas, producers should be prepared if the situation hasn't improved or if conditions worsen.

Dale Engstrom, acting head of the department's livestock nutrition section, says fairy strong beef prices make it worth while to invest money in maintaining or improving herd condition.

"When the weather is dry feeder cattle can often be taken to a feedlot, but many cows and calves have to stay on pasture," says Engstrom. "There are a few alternatives to selling off the herd or allowing them to lose condition on pasture.

"The current market value of cows makes selling off an attractive proposition and may be the best option for some producers. However, the market value of calves is expected to be good this fall making it worth while to consider investing some money in extra feed if conditions dictate."

He says under dry conditions, if cows and calves can still get some nutrients from the pasture without doing permanent damage by overgrazing, consider the following:

1. Supplement energy and protein by feeding some grain. Barley is currently the cheapest source of energy and boosting the protein with canola meal or urea would also be beneficial. Feeding a grain mix could be done every second day to minimize labor requirements, provided extra care and attention is taken during feeding to ensure an even distribution of grain to all cows.

(Cont'd)

It is relatively easy to overload cows with grain when feeding is done on a pasture. Chopped straw, silage or even sawdust may be mixed with grain to avoid grain overload. Also, plain white salt may be added to limit daily intake of grain from a self feeder located on pasture. Salt added at the rate of 12 per cent of the total grain mix would limit intake of grain to about eight pounds per day for a typical range cow.

2. Creep feed the calves. Calves of most beef breeds are capable of growing at the rate of two pounds per day from birth to weaning. By the time the calf is just three months old, the milk supply from most cows will not provide enough nutrients to sustain this level of growth. Normally calves make up the difference by grazing. Providing a good quality creep ration will allow calves to continue their normal rate of growth. Conversion of creep feed to calf gain is about 8:1. At 6¢ per pound for creep feed the return is about $2 for each $1 invested.

3. Wean the calves early and put them on feed. Calves three to four months of age can be successfully weaned and grow well when offered a good quality ration. Dry cows require only two-thirds the amount of pasture as a suckled cow plus her calf, and will likely enter the winter in better condition. Total feed required under an early versus a normal weaning system could be 20 per cent less. If pasture is so poor that both cows and calves should be removed then it is definitely cheaper to wean the calves and feed the dry cows and calves seperately.

For details on creep feeding and pasture supplementation contact your regional livestock specialist or the nutrition section of the beef cattle and sheep branch in Edmonton.

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Contact: Dale Engstrom
436-9150

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

Survey of crop seeding rates completed

The only significant increase in 1987 custom seeding rates was for conventional seeding methods, according to an Alberta Agriculture survey.

Figures quoted by operators using drills and airseeders were about $1 per acre or 16 per cent higher this year than in 1986.

Craig Edwards, a farm management economist at Olds, says the figures were obtained in a survey of 53 custom operators from most regions in Alberta.

Seeding with drills and air seeders varied from $5 to $10 per acre, with cereals and fertilizer usually in the higher range. The highest charge was for seeding and deep banding of fertilizer at $12. The most common rates in this group were about $7 in southern Alberta and $5 to $6 in the north. These rates were about $1 per acre higher than in the 1986 survey for south and north.

Custom seeding by broadcasting with floaters, truck mounted and pull type equipment for small seeded crops such as grass, legume and rapeseed, were quoted at $2 to $3.50 per acre with $3 being the most quoted rate.

Broadcasting by airplane was charged out at rates from $2.50 to $5 per acre, averaging about $4 per acre.

For more information write Craig Edwards, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or phone 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

No major change in herbicide application costs

There has been no significant change in rates charged by custom operators for application of liquid and granular herbicides, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Craig Edwards, a farm management economist with the department in Olds, made the comment after analyzing the results of a survey of 113 custom operators and herbicide dealers from across the province.

Ground implement rental rates for granular herbicides ranged from $40 to $150 per day with the most common rate being $50 per day. Per acre rental rates were $.50 to $2 with the majority being $1 per acre. Custom rates varied from $1.75 to $4 with most at $2.75 to $3 per acre.

Custom rates for application of liquid herbicide using ground implements ranged from $2 to $3.50 per acre with the most common rate being $2.50. There were only two replies for equipment rental rates - $.75 and $2 per acre. Aerial rates were from $3 to $5 per acre with $3.50 to $4 being the most common depending on the amount of water used.

For more information on the survey write Craig Edwards, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or phone 556-4248.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

August 3, 1987
For immediate release

Wild rice field day planned August 30

Anyone interested in Alberta's wild rice industry is invited to a late August field day at Jackfish Lake, in north central Alberta, to learn how this special crop is produced.

Growers, prospective growers and the general public are welcome to participate in the day-long event August 30 which includes displays, a short formal discussion, and lake boat tours to see the crop being harvested.

Dave Burdek, a wild rice specialist working for the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association in Lac La Biche, says participants could make it a camping weekend.

"There is a well maintained campground at Jackfish Lake," he says. "Anyone interested in participating in the field day is welcome to come Friday night, attend the field day on Saturday and relax around their campsite on Sunday."

Jackfish Lake, east and north of Athabasca, is one of 600 Alberta lakes which have been seeded to wild rice in the last three years. Burdek estimates about 200 of the lakes have well-established stands of rice. Between 1,500 and 1,800 acres of rice are to be harvested this year.

"We're predicting 1987 will be our best production year yet," he says. "Weather and growing conditions have co-operated to produce an excellent crop."

The field day is sponsored by the wild rice growers' association and Alberta Agriculture.

The day begins with the growers' association annual meeting at 10 a.m. at the Park View Hall, just north of the Athabasca airport. Field day activities get underway at 11 a.m. with a brief formal presentation on the wild rice industry. There will also be displays on seeding and harvesting equipment, as well as a food-use display by the Alberta Agriculture district home economist from Lac La Biche.

There will also be several specialists on hand to answer production questions. The formal discussion is followed by boat tours of the harvesting operation. The tours will run continuously during the day.

(Cont'd)

Lunch is available at Jackfish Lake.

Although formal registration isn't required, Burdek asks anyone planning to attend to advise himself or district agriculturist Harvey Yoder at 623-5219 in Lac La Biche, before August 30.

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Contact: Harvey Yoder - Dave Burdek
623-5218

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August 10, 1987

For immediate release

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Elzinga participates in Bassano Dam opening ceremony

Alberta Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga joined Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise in officially opening the $14 million Bassano Dam redevelopment project.

The minister was among provincial and municipal officials and native leaders taking part in the colorful ceremony marking the end of of renovation of the 73-year-old dam on the Bow River.

As guest speaker at the ceremony John Wise paid tribute to the co-operation between the federal government, Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment, the Eastern Irrigation District (EID) and the Blackfoot Indians.

He said without the good working relationship between these agencies the true value of irrigation projects such as this would not be realized.

"Bassano Dam is a key component of the irrigation network developed with the Eastern Irrigation District," Mr. Wise said. "As well as making possible the irrigation of 100,000 hectares of farmland, the dam provides water for community, industrial and recreational purposes."

The federal minister said there is a strong commitment between the government of Canada and government of Alberta to provide multi-purpose projects such as the Bassano Dam rehabilitation project.

He praised the leadership and support Alberta Agriculture has shown the agriculture industry in development of irrigation.

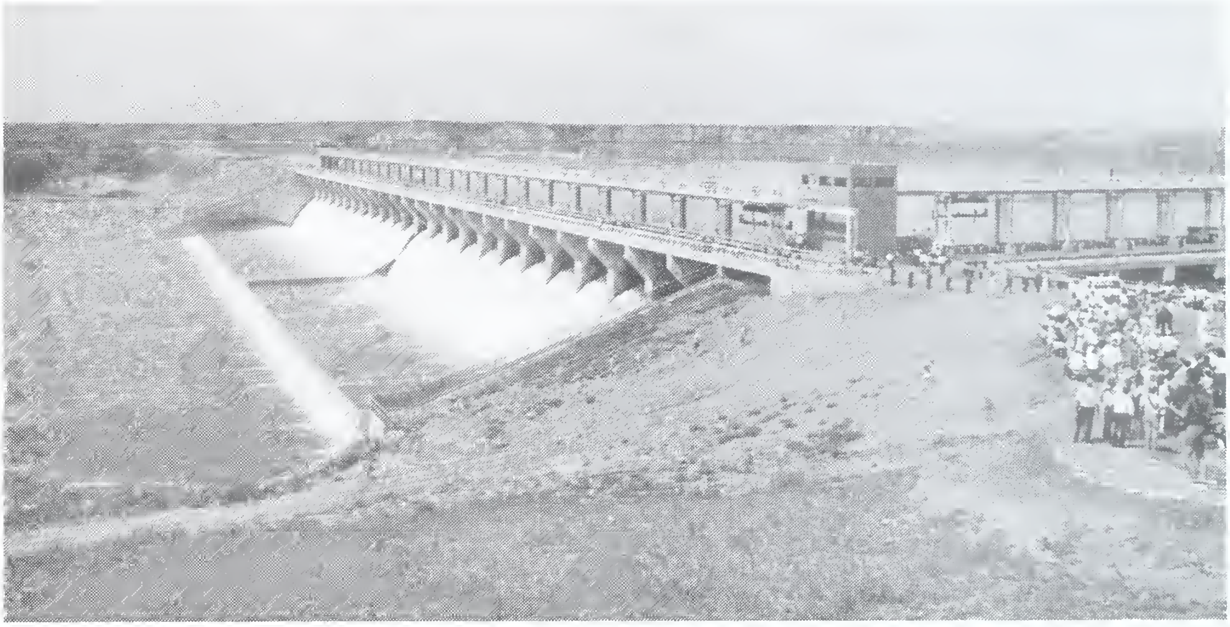
Commenting on the project Mr. Elzinga stated, "For more than 25 years Alberta Agriculture has worked with the farmers involved in the irrigation industry in this province and we are pleased to be part of this ceremony.

"We will continue to play that support role in working with producers to ensure they get maximum benefit from the facilities and water resource."

Mr. Elzinga noted that crops produced on the 1.2 million acres of irrigated land in Alberta represent about 20 per cent of the value of all agricultural production in the province.

(Cont'd)

Elzinga participates in Bassano Dam opening ceremonies (cont'd)



Top Photo, overall view of the Bassano Dam and part of the crowd attending opening ceremonies. Left photo, Federal Agriculture Minister John Wise, addresses the audience, while Alberta Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga looks on. Right photo, John Wise prepares to unveil the Bassano Dam plaque accompanied by Mr. Elzinga, MP Bob Porter and Blackfoot Chief Leo Youngman.

(Cont'd)

Among those participating in the opening ceremony before a crowd of about 400 people were Dr. Harry Hill, director of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration; MP Bob Porter; MLA Tom Musgrove; Don Alberts, chairman of the EID board; Jim Webber, EID general manager; Blackfoot Chief Leo Youngman; and Peter Melynchuk, assistant deputy minister of Alberta Environment.

The facility which was orignally built in 1910 on a horseshoe bend of the Bow River which winds through the Blackfoot Reserve, has undergone a major upgrading to rebuild the dam and provide improved water storage and distribution facilities for the Eastern Irrigation District.

Reconstrcution of the dam began in late 1984. Because it had to be be able to provide water to the irrigation district between mid-April and mid-October of each year, construction had to proceed in phases. Each winter a portion of the dam was demolished and rebuilt, so the diversion of water to the EID could continue unimpeded the following spring and summer.

Although the basic structure has remained the same, most of the exposed parts of the dam above the low-water line have been rebuilt. Automated gates and hoists have been installed on the spillway and diversion works. The concrete abutment walls, piers and bridge deck have all been replaced. As well, the interior of the dam has been reinformced and the spillway reconstructed.

The Eastern district is the largest irrigation district in Canada and is larger in size than Prince Edward Island. Its boundaries encompass about 2,400 square miles which includes 247,000 acres of irrigated crop land and 580,000 of dryland pasture.

Along with providing water for irrigation the reservoir supplies domestic water to 1,200 farmsteads, serves the communities of Bassano, Brooks, Duchess, Rosemary, Tilley, Scandia, Patricia, Rolling Hills and Gem. It also supplies water for industrial needs such as for feedlots, vegetable and meat packing industries and facilities serving the oil patch.

(Cont'd)

Elzinga participates in Bassano Dam opening (cont'd)

The dam also provides the ability to maintain the water level in Newell Lake south of Brooks. Water control enhances the recreation potential of nearby Kinbrook Provincial Park and maintains lakeside wildlife habitat.

The ceremony marked completion of the project which was funded by Alberta Environment, Agriculture Canada, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and the Eastern Irrigation District.

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For further information contact:

Bard Haddrell
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Edmonton, Alberta
Phone 427-2137

Stan Sparling
Alberta Irrigation
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August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Lost Lake irrigation project on stream

A unique irrigation project, which provides benefits for a range of resource uses, has been officially opened near Vauxhall by Alberta Agriculture Deputy Minister Ben McEwen.

In a recent ceremony before about 200 guests, McEwen declared the nearly $2 million Lost Lake Water Reuse Project officially in operation.

Along with providing water for more acres of irrigated farmland within the Bow River Irrigation District (BRID), the project will also enhance wildlife and waterfowl habitat and provide recreation opportunities.

The cost of the project was funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, the irrigation district and Ducks Unlimited.

"This project is a benefit to the co-existance of agriculture and wildlife," said the deputy minister. "It is an innovative example of engineering and habitat management. I am very impressed with the project and the co-operation between the agencies involved."

McEwen said the Lost Lake project promotes the effective use of water and conservation of land. He said by making good use of the primary natural resources, it creates opportunities for development of secondary resources such as recreation and industry.

The deputy minister said about $500 million has been spent on recent irrigation rehabilitation projects.

"And it is paying off, contributing not only to the economy in this part of the country, but provincially and nationally," he said.

Lost Lake, six miles north and nine miles west of Vauxhall, was historically a glorified slough until excess water from expansion of irrigation projects in the early 1970s entered the Lost Lake drainage basin and raised the level of the lake.

This extra water from the irrigation systems led to flooding of adjoining lands and created a problem for waterfowl habitat. A pumping scheme was implemented in 1974 which saw waters draining into Lost Lake pumped, via the Lost Lake drain, back to the Bow River.

(Cont'd)

Lost Lake irrigation project on stream (cont'd)

Deputy Minister Ben McEwen, left, shakes hands with MLA Tom Musgrove, while DU spokesman Rod Fowler, right, congratualtes BRID's Frank Cudrak, following unveiling of the Lost Lake cairn.

Lost Lake irrigation project on stream (cont'd)

This system was satisfactory as long as the excess water wasn't needed for irrigation, but as demand for irrigated farmland increased a new solution was needed. Simply pumping "good irrigation water" back to the river was no longer a suitable alerternative.

The BRID board of directors, recognizing the need for increased water use efficiencies, agreed to implement the Lost Lake Water Reuse Project.

Now, all excess water entering the Lost Lake Draingage Basin is pumped via a 1,200 horsepower pumping station out of Lost Lake and into the Bow River Irrigation District main canal, allowing for an extra 8,000 acres of farmland to be brought under irrigation.

Combined with this project, under a co-operative agreement with Alberta Fish and Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited, is an enhanced wetland area.

Dikes and canals have been constructed in the drainage basin allowing the water level in key areas to be maintained to provide 12,000 acres of suitable habitat for waterfowl.

Rod Fowler, western region manager of Ducks Unlimited, said the project also includes a program to reduce the damage caused by waterfowl to crops. This involves feeding stations within the Lost Lake area, as well as establishing "lure" crops that will keep ducks and geese away from farmers' fields.

DU is also supporting a program to provide greater compensation to farmers for damage to crops by wildlife.

Also participating in the opening ceremonies were Jake Friesen, general manager of the BRID, Frank Cudrak, chairman of the BRID board, and Bow Valley MLA, Tom Musgrove, representing Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife Minister Don Sparrow.

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Stan Sparling
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August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Horse improvement program entry deadline nears

Alberta horse breeders and trainers should make plans to register this month for the 13th annual horse improvement program in Red Deer in September.

Sponsored by Alberta Agriculture the program provides breeders of more than a dozen classes of horses an opportunity to improve their breed selection skills says Bob Coleman, the department's horse specialist in Edmonton.

Deadline for submitting applications is September 1.

The popular program, held at the Western Exhibition Grounds, combines competition with a learning opportunity. Each participating exhibitor will receive a written evaluation from expert judges.

"One of the objectives of the program is to identify the superior horses in Alberta," says Coleman. "The written evaluation will help identify strengths, and tell breeders and trainers what they are doing right."

The program will allow breeders to take pride in their accomplishments, and recognize those horses that are of superior quality. A recommendation from the horse improvement program is a bonus in developing markets for Alberta-bred horses.

The program is offered over two weekends with Arabians, Walking Horses, Welsh Ponys, Hunters, Saddlebreds, Pintos and Morgans featured September 19 and 20. Breeds featured on the September 26 and 27 weekend include Paints, Appaloosas and Quarter Horses.

The Alberta owned and bred horses will compete under a three-judge system. Experts participating include, Peter Cameron, of St. Catharines, Ontario, a leading judge in all classes; Joe Vanorio, of Greenwich, Connecticut, a well recognized judge of Arabians, Hunters, Morgans, Walking Horses and Saddlebreds; Dr. Doug Householder, of College Station Texas, an equine specialist and recognized judge of Quarter Horses and Paints; and Dr. Bob Norrie of Santa Rosa, California, a equine veterinarian and noted judge.

(Cont'd)

Horse Improvement program deadline entry nears (cont'd)

Prize money of up to $2,000 is being offered in Arabian, Quarter Horse and Appaloosa competitions, and up to $1,200 in all other breeds.

Application forms have been sent out through breed associations, but anyone not receiving an application, or not a member of a breed association can obtain a form from Alberta Agriculture horse industry branch offices in Calgary and Edmonton

Coleman says the completed application forms must be in the branch offices no later than September 1. There is an entry fee of $10 per class.

For more information contact the Horse Industry Branch at No. 205 2003 McKnight Blvd. N.E., Calgary, T2E 6L2 or at 904 O.S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 4P2.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
436-9150

August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Reduced tillage looks promising for Southern Alberta

Contrary to popular belief, conservation farming doesn't necessarily cost producers, more according to the preliminary results of a study being conducted by Alberta Agriculture.

The report notes that neither reduced tillage nor summerfallow farming practices will protect profits against poor growing conditions, but in two years of study farmers using reduced tillage showed greater return on investment than farmers applying conventional farming techniques.

Kathleen MacDonald-Date of Alberta Agriculture's production and resource economics branch who is working on the study with Richard Heikkila, says preliminary results show that conservation farming can be economical as well as provide protection to the soil resource.

"Reduced tillage has been recommended as an appropriate conservation practice for southern Alberta," she says. "The slow adoption of this practice has been attributed to the high herbicide costs associated with reduced tillage. A study was undertaken by Alberta Agriculture to examine the costs and returns of specific conservation tillage practices and to determine whether there was sufficient financial incentive to encourage the use of such practices."

The study examines winter wheat production under different tillage and rotation systems in southern Alberta over a two year period. A conventional tillage system with a 50/50 rotation was compared against reduced tillage systems with continuous cropping. Data were collected for 1985, a drought year, and 1986, a year with more normal weather conditions.

The 1985 farm survey examined 15 farms in Warner County; the 1986 survey examined nine of the original 15 farms in Warner and 10 farms in the Municipal District of Willow Creek.

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Reduced tillage looks promising for southern Alberta (cont'd)

MacDonald-Date says under the conventional system only 50 per cent of the acreage is cropped in any given year, while the remaining 50 per cent is summerfallowed.

(Cont'd)

To make a meaningful comparison between the two types of management systems, only 50 per cent of the total two year costs and returns of the conventional system are compared with the annual costs and returns for the reduced tillage system.

Both the 1985 and the 1986 farm survey results showed the reduced tillage systems to have higher economic returns than the conventional tillage system.

"In 1985, both minimum tillage and no-tillage with continuous cropping had higher returns to capital (returns over variable costs) than the conventional system," says the specialist. "When all fixed costs are taken into account (interest on loans, land taxes, rent and depreciation) both systems recorded negative returns to equity.

"However, the losses under reduced tillage were less than under conventional tillage. Due to the drought conditions in 1985, the results reflect a poor crop year and may not be applicable to longer term normal weather conditions."

Preliminary results for more normal weather conditions of 1986 showed that winter wheat recropped without tillage had higher returns than did winter wheat with conventional tillage and fallow.

Both systems showed positive returns to capital and to equity, with no-tillage returns to capital being about double those of the conventional system and the returns to equity 15 times those of the conventional system.

"From the 1986 farm survey results, it appears that under normal weather conditions recropping with no-tillage can be profitable and that profitability is not dependent on support programs," she says.

"However, in a poor crop year such as 1985, returns are severely reduced and support payments are needed to cover variable costs."

In contrast, the profitability of the conventional system is also significantly reduced in a dry crop year, but the variable costs could be covered without support programs.

(Cont'd)

MacDonald-Date says care should be taken in transferring these survey results to individual farm situations in southern Alberta.

The 1985 study was limited to winter wheat production in Warner County. In 1986, it was expanded to the Willow Creek area. In both years a number of crops were examined under different tillage and cropping systems. Only winter wheat results are presented here. Final results won't be available until the study is completed.

"Greater returns to reduced tillage come with greater risk of losses in dry years," she says. "Cash flow problems may also result from higher operating costs. Despite these potential problems, reduced tillage may be desirable for its long term conservation benefits. Farmers should carefully assess the two systems taking into account individual management ability, geographical location, capital commitments and ability to assume risk."

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Contact: Kathleen MacDonald-Date - Richard Heikkila
427-4026

August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Lloydminster hosting horticultural show

Gardening experts and hobbyists alike are urged to set aside August 23 and 24 for one of the major horticultural showcases of the year as Lloydminster hosts the Interprovincial Horticultural Show.

This is only the second interprovincial show since 1980. Both events have been hosted by the Alberta/Saskatchewan border city.

More than 2,000 entries from more than 125 exhibitors are expected to fill the Lloydminster Communiplex for the two day show.

Along with seeing some of the top flowers, fruit and vegetables grown on the prairies, visitors will also be able to participate in workshops and seminars.

Betty Vladicka, Alberta Agriculture horticulture specialist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre in Edmonton says the Alberta and Saskatchewan horticulture associations last co-operated in a bench show in 1980 to mark the 75th anniversary of the two provinces.

This year the Saskatchewan association is celebrating its 60th anniversary.

Kay Hauer, president of the Lloydminster Horticulture Society says she is counting on a strong turnout by exhibitors.

"This show creates a new challenge for all gardeners in Alberta and Saskatchewan, whereby they can compete with exhibitors from far afield," she says. "The new friends made and the new ideas gained will give all societies a fresh outlook.

"The first Interprovincial Show held in 1980 will long be remembered for the tremendous display of flowers, fruits and vegetables. We are counting on you, the exhibitor to make this second show in the Border City another show to remember."

Entries will be accepted until 8 a.m. August 23. Staging of exhibits will be allowed from 4 p.m. August 22 to 8:30 a.m. August 23. Judging gets underway at 9 a.m.

The show will be open for public viewing from 2 to 10 p.m. August 23 and from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. August 24.

(Cont'd)

Lloydminster hosting horticultural show (cont'd)

During the Sunday, August 23 program, Brendan Casement with Alberta Agriculture in Brooks will offer a trees and shrubs workshop from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. followed by a Glads and Dahlias workshop offered by Ernie Henderson of High River from 3 to 3:45 p.m.

Advance tickets for the Sunday banquet are available from Lloydminster society members.

For more information on the interprovincial show contact Kay Hauer at (403) 875-8218 or Irmgard Jurke at (403) 875-8320.

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Contact: Kay Hauer
(403) 875-8218

August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Soil conservation begins at harvest

Alberta farmers are reminded soil conservation begins at harvest, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

Producers should remember that measures taken this fall - particularly in working with fields to be summerfallowed next year - will go a long way in protecting the soil resource.

John Timmermans, a soil conservation specialist with the department in Airdrie, says making use of crop residue and reduced tillage could prevent the loss of those vital few centimetres of top soil.

"The straw will help protect the soil from erosion and conserve moisture," he says. "Evenly spread straw may reduce the need for tillage in spring, or preparation of a seedbed for next year's crop. Less tillage means better protection from erosion and better moisture conservation.

"In a summerfallow rotation, the stubble and straw on a field after harvest must be sufficient to protect the soil not only through 1988, but through June of 1989.

"Evenly spread straw and chaff permits even germination of winter annual weeds such as stinkweed and flixweed. These weeds can be controlled with an inexpensive application of a herbicide like 2,4-D, before freeze-up in October, or in very early spring. Using herbicides to control these weeds should delay the need for the first cultivation of summerfallow fields until June.

"Spreading straw as evenly as possible is an important first step in fall. Whether the plan is to crop next spring or to summerfallow, evenly-spread straw and chemical weed control will conserve moisture, reduce costs and labor of cultivation and conserve the residue needed to protect the soil.

"Significant number of acres in the province have been seriously damaged by wind erosion in the last three years because of poor soil cover. Conservation measures aren't just something that's 'nice to do', they have very real and direct value to farmers in protecting the soil," says Timmermans."

(Cont'd)

Soil conservation begins at harvest (cont'd)

For more information on soil conservation measures contact an Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist or an agriculture service board fieldman.

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Contact: John Timmermans
948-8539

August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Don't give erosion a toehold

That small bare patch out in the grain field may not look like much of a soil erosion risk, but an Alberta Agriculture specialist urges farmers not to allow little problems to get bigger.

John Timmermans, a soil conservation specialist with the department in Airdrie says a two, five or 10 acre patch of unprotected field can give wind enough toehold to erode an area double or triple the original size.

"This year throughout many parts of Alberta, crops didn't germinate evenly or resulted in areas of poor stands because of wind, frost and drought," he says. "This has left some fields or patches of fields that are bare or will have very poor crop residue cover to protect them from erosion. These are the focal points where erosion will start.

"Especially if summerfallowing is planned for next year, these smaller problem spots should be addressed. Some practical alternatives include the following:

- seeding a cover crop
- spreading loose or baled straw or manure
- lifting tillage equipment to avoid cultivating areas that have poor stubble cover
- ridging parts of field which are prone to erosion now, by using lister shovels before freeze up."

For more information on conservation measures contact an Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist, or an agriculture service board fieldman.

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Contact: John Timmermans
948-8539

August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Potato growers urged to use soil conservation methods

Alberta potato growers are urged to take measures to reduce the risk of soil erosion after the 1987 potato crop has been harvested.

Many potato fields were included in the one million acres of soil moderately to severely eroded in each of the past three years.

The cost of wind erosion includes the loss of soil quality and crop nutrients. However downwind costs include damage to fencelines, irrigation works and equipment, drift soil on neighboring fields and associated clean-up costs.

As well, poor driving visibility caused by soil drifting across roads has contributed to traffic accidents and personal injuries.

An Alberta Agriculture specialist says steps can be taken either before, during or after harvest to provide ground cover or surface wind breaks to protect the soil.

John Timmermans, a soil conservation specialist in Airdrie says the effort made in protecting the soil is well worth the investment.

There are about 25,000 acres of commercial potato production in Alberta. The majority are in southern Alberta.

The specialist says once potatoes have been harvested there is little plant residue to protect the soil from the often devastating winds that whip across the southern prairies.

"It's a combination of factors which includes the the type of soil, the nature of the potato plant itself and the type of management required for commercial production that predisposes the land to wind erosion," says Timmermans.

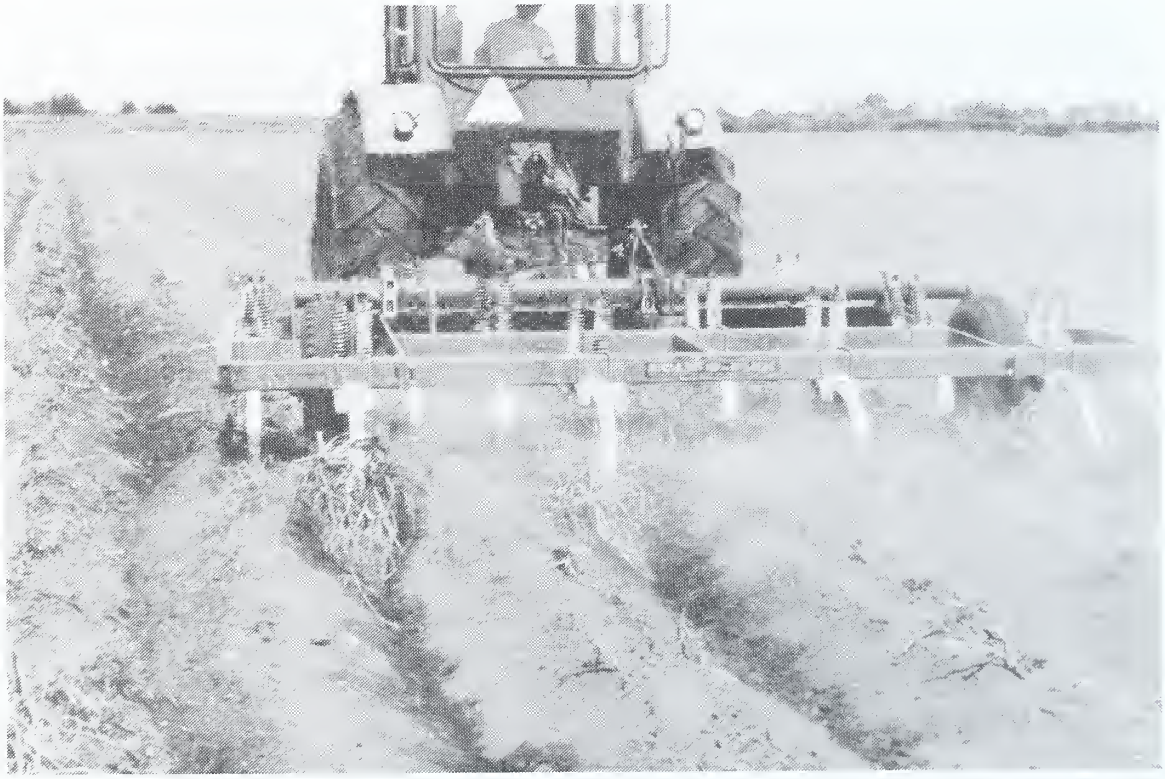
He says the type of soil protection measures used depend on whether early or late potatoes are grown. Trial demonstrations of the two systems were made in 1986 with good results.

For early potato growers the conservation specialist recommends seeding a cover crop of oats at August harvest which will produce enough plant growth to protect the soil until spring.

(Cont'd)

SOIL CONSERVATION
WIND EROSION CONTROL ON POTATO LAND
AG SERVICE BOARD

Sign indicates a demonstration project where a cover crop of oats was seeded, following potato harvest, to protect the soil from erosion.



Lister shovels are used to ridge soil, reducing the ability of the wind to cause erosion on vulnerable fields.

(Cont'd)

Depending on available time and machinery, the cover crop can be aerial seeded just before harvest, or it can be planted with a seed drill immediately after harvest. The harvesting process will help cover the seed if the field is aerial seeded.

"Oats are recommended because it is fast growing and will not survive over winter to create any problems for the crop that will follow the next spring," he says. "Growers can use barley or any other cover crop they prefer, as long as some type of plant growth is there to protect the soil."

Timmermans recommends a seeding rate of about three bushels per acre for aerial seeding, or two bushels per acre if a drill is used.

Aerial seeding costs were estimated at about $5 per acre. The specialist says the cash cost of drill seeding is lower, but requires more time at a busy time of year.

"We found in our demonstration trials last year that aerial seeding worked very well," says Timmermans. "We are suggesting to potato growers that this is a reasonably cheap way to keep their soil at home. But for best results it has to be done either just before or just after the harvesting operation. Drill seeding however, resulted in more uniform germination and cover."

He encouraged growers, working with the agriculture service board fieldman, to try the cover crop method or at least conduct their own demonstration trial this year.

Conservation measures for late potato growers are different, says Timmermans.

Because the crop is harvested later, usually in September and October, there may not be an adequate growing season to establish a cover crop. For these potato fields he is recommending farmers delay cultivating or levelling work until spring.

"There isn't enough time for a cover crop, but if we can at least disrupt the wind at ground level that will go a long way toward protecting the soil," he says.

(Cont'd)

The specialist notes it can be difficult to get sandy soils to ridge or form windbreaks, but going over the field with lister shovels will create ridges which will prevent wind from getting a clean sweep of the field.

The lister shovels attach to the rear shanks of a heavy duty cultivator and create soil ridges up to one-foot high between the shanks.

"Depending on fall and winter conditions, the wind may blow soil off the top of the ridges and fill the hollows by spring, but in the absence of any ground cover or other windbreak, it is about the only alternative there is," says Timmermans. "One pass over the field with the lister shovels will provide a considerable degree of protection for the soil."

The specialist says growers interested in this system should contact their local agriculture service board fieldman for advice or to arrange a trial demonstraion.

For more information on conservation methods contact the nearest Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist, agriculture service board fieldman or Timmermans in Airdrie at 948-8539.

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Contact: John Timmermans
948-8539

August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Farmers can make use of computerized bulletin board

Alberta farmers can now connect their computers to the Compu-Farm Remote Bulletin Board (RBBS) to browse for useful farm computer software or search for research reports, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

The RBBS is an electronic version of the community bulletin board, and is run by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

Once connected by telephone to the RBBS, producers can exchange non-copyright software, send electronic mail to other RBBS users or search for research reports in particular topic areas.

Producers require a computer, modem and telecommunications software to access the RBBS, which runs after office hours and 24 hours on weekends. The farm managers can also download, or transfer reports and documents from the RBBS to their own computers.

"Alberta Agriculture's computer newsletter, Compu-Farm, and the department's market newsletter, The Weekly, are both available on the RBBS when these newsletters go to print," says Bruce Waldie, supervisor of the management technology unit of the farm business management branch in Olds, and RBBS system operator (Sysop).

"For example, The Weekly goes to press every Friday with most producers receiving it in their mailbox sometime the following week. With the RBBS however, anyone can download the electronic version of the newsletter and read it Friday night."

Waldie says producers can also use the RBBS to search for project summary reports from Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future On-Farm Demonstration Program.

"The farmer enters a keyword like BEEF or CANOLA, and the computer prepares a list of any reports that contain that keyword. The producer can also download those report summaries from the RBBS".

The phone number for the RBBS is (403) 556-4104. There is no charge to use the RBBS, but callers from outside the local Olds telephone exchange must pay regular AGT long-distance toll rates.

(Cont'd)

Farmers can make use of computerized bulletin board (cont'd)

For more information, contact Bruce Waldie at the farm business management branch at Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0 or phone 556-4243.

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Contact: Bruce Waldie
556-4243

August 10, 1987
For immediate release

New regional swine specialist appointed in Red Deer

Marvin Salomons has been named Alberta Agriculture regional swine specialist in Red Deer.

In a recent announcement, Alan Hall, director North Central Region, said Salomons will take over his new post September 1. He replaces Randy Fielder who resigned earlier to return to the family business in Ontario.

Salomons has served as Alberta Agriculture's regional swine specialist in Barrhead for the past six years. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1977 with a master of science degree in animal science with a major emphasis on animal nutrition. He worked in Ontario for Agriculture Canada's feed and fertilizer division prior to joining the department.

"Marvin has a proven track record of very capably responding to the needs of the swine industry," said Hall. "He has been very involved in conducting swine research and extension programs. In providing his support to swine producers, Marvin has worked closely with the feed industry, marketing agencies, supplies, processors and farm organizations."

Married with two children, Salomons was raised on a farm near Blackfalds.

Based at the Red Deer office, the specialist will serve hog producers in areas from Calgary to Edmonton, and from Rocky Mountain House to the Saskatchewan border.

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Contact:	Alan Hall 340-7611	Marvin Salomons 674-1248

August 10, 1987
For Immediate Release

New general manager appointed to marketing council

The Chairman of the Alberta Marketing Council, Harvey Buckley, has announced the appointment of Ken Smith to the position of general manager.

The Alberta Marketing Council is charged with supervising the boards, agencies and commissioners which function under the Alberta Marketing of Agricultural Products Act.

Mr. Smith, who has an extensive background in farm related enterprises was with the Edmonton law firm of Smith and Company. Most recently, Mr. Smith was instrumental in drafting the new Marketing of Agricultural Products Act.

Mr. Buckley stated, "I have felt for sometime that legal counsel would be of great assistance. With the previous general manager, Tom Sydness, accepting the position as Head, Poultry Industry Branch with Alberta Agriculture, this opened the possibility of placing such a person in the general manager's position".

Mr. Buckley continued, "We were quite pleased that someone with Mr. Smith's background and knowledge of the new legislation, which was just recently proclaimed, would be available to fill the position".

The Chairman also noted the many years Mr. Sydness served as general manager and praised him for his hard work and effort and wished him well in his new position.

Mr. Smith's appointment is effective immediately.

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Contact: Harvey Buckley
Chairman, Alberta Marketing council
Edmonton, Alberta
427-2164

August 10, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

ONTARIO COLLEGES OFFER AGRICULTURE JOURNALISM

Aspiring Alberta farm writers may be interested in the first Canadian agriculture journalism courses offered at Kemptville College of Agricultural Technology near Ottawa. The college is launching the first year of the two-year course this fall. Participating students will take their second-year studies at Loyalist College at Belleville, Ontario. Lecturer Terrence Meagher says Kemptville College was late in recruiting this year, but the first class, with a maximum of 15 students, is already more than half full. The first year program includes a variety of subjects ranging from agricultural marketing and politics, broadcast and photojournalism, to Ontario crop production and animal breeding. The second year at Loyalist will include courses in public affairs reporting, public reations, feature writing and photography. A major component of the program will be a newspaper internship. For more information on the program contact the Registrar, Kemptville College, Kemptville, Ontario, K0G 1J0, or phone (613) 258-8335.

POTATOES ARE A BIG ALBERTA BUSINESS

Relatively inexpensive and readily available, potatoes don't demand a great deal of attention from Alberta consumers, but growing and processing the vegetable is a major industry in the province. Clive Schaupmeyer, a specialist at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks says " most consumers are not aware that Alberta processed potato products are worth around $50 million to the economy annually." About half of the potatoes produced on 24,000 acres of Alberta farmland are used by processors such as York Farms for french fries, and Hostess and Old Dutch for chips and other snack foods. There are also smaller processors making other potato products such as dehydrated potatoes. About one-third of Alberta potatoes are sold as fresh produce. Another 15 to 20 per cent of potatoes grown here are sold in western Canada and Washington state as certified potato seed.

(Cont'd)

WILD RICE FIELD DAY SATURDAY AUGUST 29

Growers, prospective growers and the general public are welcome to participate in the annual Alberta Wild Rice Field Day at Jackfish Lake in north central Alberta, Saturday August 29. The field day begins in the morning with an information session at Park View Hall, just north of the Athabasca airport, followed by boat tours of the wild rice harvesting operation. Dave Burdek, a wild rice specialist working for the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association in Lac La Biche, says participants could make it a camping weekend. "There is a well maintained campground at Jackfish Lake," he says. "Anyone interested in participating in the field day is welcome to come Friday night, attend the field day on Saturday and relax around their campsite on Sunday." Jackfish Lake, east and north of Athabasca, is one of 600 Alberta lakes which have been seeded to wild rice in the last three years. Burdek estimates about 200 of the lakes have well-established stands of rice. Between 1,500 and 1,800 acres of rice are to be harvested this year. Although formal registration isn't required, Burdek asks anyone planning to attend to advise himself or district agriculturist Harvey Yoder at 623-5219 in Lac La Biche, before August 30.

SUGAR MAY ACT LIKE A SEDATIVE

Contrary to belief that sugar stimulates hyper-activity, some research has shown the sweet stuff may in fact act as a sedative. Alberta Agriculture regional food and nutrition specialist, Suzanne Tenold, in Airdrie, in her newsletter Food and Nutrition Matters, says an Ottawa professor has discovered new information. Dr. Bruce Ferguson, a psychology professor at Carleton University told a symposium that while there has traditionally been concern over the association of sugar and behavior, sugar has been shown to provide an overall sedative effect on behavior. Ferguson says sugar facilitiates entry of an amino acid, tryptophan, into the brain. There tryptophan produces serotonin, a neurotransmitter that promotes sleepiness. An increased level of tryptophan causes drowsiness or calmness.

(Cont'd)

TRACTOR FUEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT CONTINUES

A demonstration showing the fuel consumption rate of an average farm tractor performing routine work continues to make the rounds in the Peace River region. The Tractor Fuel Efficiency Demonstration sponsored by Alberta Agriculture and Olds College is nearing the end of its summer demonstration schedule. The tractor has been specially equippped with an on-board computer to show how operating the tractor in different gears at different throttle can affect fuel use. Farmers are urged to contact their district agriculturist for demonstration locations. The tractor will be in the Rycroft district August 11; the Eaglesham district August 12, the Girouxville district August 13, the Nampa district August 14, the Hawk Hills district August 15, the High Level district August 18, La Crete district August 19, the Berwyn and Grimshaw district August 21 and the Worsely district August 22.

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AGRI-NEWS

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August 17, 1987

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Henry Kroeger receives international conservation award

Henry Kroeger, a long time Alberta MLA known across Western Canada for his soil and water conservation work, has been recognized by an international conservation society.

The Chinook MLA was one of three men honored by the Soil Conservation Society of America at its recent annual meeting in Billings, Montana.

Kroeger received the society's Honors Award for "his outstanding contributions to agriculture and water resources in Alberta".

Also receiving the award were Donald Lobb, a Clinton, Ontario farmer and Fred Olday, a Cherryfield, Maine, research horticulturist.

HENRY KROEGER

Headquartered in Iowa, the society is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting wise use of land and water resources. It has 13,000 members in the U.S., Canada and 80 other countries. Alberta and Ontario have the only two Canadian chapters. It will be holding its annual meeting in Edmonton in 1989.

"This is an organization that has been in existence for 42 years with a world-wide membership," said Kroeger following receipt of the award. "When I first heard that I was among those to be honored by the society I couldn't help but be more than a little excited. It certainly is gratifying."

For more than half a century, Kroeger has championed the cause of soil and water conservation. From the time he was a youngman working in the farming community around Hanna/Consort, through four decades as a businessman, to his years of public service, he has been well aware of resource issues.

(Cont'd)

"My first awareness of the importance of soil and water conservation really came in the early 1930s, growing up in that Hanna/Consort area," said the 70-year-old MLA. "The drought of the '30s literally turned that area into a desert."

Kroeger has often told the story of making a three-day bicycle trip in 1937 to Brooks for a first-hand look at the fledgling irrigation industry.

"I knew the problem in our area wasn't going to go away soon and I wanted to see what irrigation was all about. I was amazed to see, in that part of the country, what could be done with the right mixture of soil and water and heat units," he said.

As a farm machinery dealer in Hanna for nearly 40 years, Kroeger said he was well aware of soil and water conservation issues. He said in working with farmers he knew the machinery and equipment sold could either build or destroy the land depending on how it was used.

He was elected Chinook constituency MLA in 1975 and was appointed Alberta Transportation Minister in 1979, by then Premier Peter Lougheed.

"Although I was directly responsible for transportation I told the premier I also wanted to be involved with water management," said Kroeger.

That same year he was asked to set up the Alberta Water Management Committee. That led to the creation in 1982 of the Alberta Water Resources Commission, of which Kroeger continues to serve as chairman.

The commission serves an advisory role to the government, making recommendations on water and soil resource management issues.

"You can't divorce water from soil management," he says. "They must go hand in hand. I've been 50 years promoting and influencing conservation in Alberta. There is no substitute for the experience of living and working with these resource-use issues."

The chairman says the commission deals with a wide range of matters from efficient use of water in dry southern Alberta, to land drainage projects in northern Alberta.

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Contact: Henry Kroeger
427-1800

August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Deputy minister supports multiple resource-use concept

Alberta Agriculture supports the concept of multiple resource-use projects, says a senior department official.

Deputy Minister Ben McEwen, commenting on his involvement in two recent events, reaffirmed agriculture and wildlife can co-exist in Alberta. He says marginal farmland might better be returned to grass or managed as wildlife habitat, rather than as low-yield cropland.

McEwen says there is little disagreement among most government officials and farm leaders that some land now being farmed should never have been brought under cultivation.

The deputy minister made his comments after attending the recent opening of a unique irrigation project in southern Alberta, and speaking at a conference of North American soil conservation specialists in Montana.

He said although the two events were unrelated, they shared a common interest in sound resource management.

"I am very supportive of more projects such as Lost Lake," said McEwen referring to the completion of a $2 million project near Vauxhall which will serve both irrigation and wildlife interests.

"Lost Lake combines increased irrigation capability with improved and expanded waterfowl habitat. It was developed to recognize not only agricultural values, but wildlife and recreation values as well. I expect we will see more projects like this."

The deputy minister said the project, which was jointly funded by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund, the Bow River Irrigation District (BRID), Ducks Unlimited and the Bucks for Wildlife Program, recognizes that one use of a resource should not adversely affect another.

"One of the unique features of this project is the waterfowl feeding project," he said. "It is the largest of its kind in Alberta. By developing feeding stations, buying cropland and planting 240 acres of barley to act as lure crops, it is expected that migrating geese and ducks will have minimal impact on cereal crops grown by area farmers."

(Cont'd)

The feeding stations will prevent crop losses to waterfowl during the critical fall period when waterfowl are migrating and staging in the area. Ducks Unlimited also bought 200 scare cannons which will be distributed by the BRID to help farmers keeps ducks off their crops and move them to the feeding stations.

McEwen said the department supports recommendations that compensation paid to farmers for damage caused by wildlife be increased. The existing compensation agreement between Agriculture Canada and the provincial fish and wildlife division of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife covers only 75 per cent of damages to a maximum of $70 per acre.

"We agree that farmers should be fully compensated for their losses," said the deputy minister. "Alberta Agriculture is not directly involved in these negotiations, but it is obvious that in today's terms $70 per acre, especially on irrigated land, does not fully cover damages."

On the same theme, speaking to the 42nd annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America in Billings, Montana, McEwen said both waterfowl management and damage compensation are international issues.

"Migratory waterfowl are an international resource and provide a special case for international co-operation," he told the conference.

He said it is hoped the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, signed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and Canada's Minister of Environment in 1986 will go a long way to solving waterfowl conservation problems.

The plan provides a framework for government and non-government co-operation, between the two countries, to achieve "desirable" waterfowl population levels by the year 2000.

"A major difference between previous work and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is that the latter will link the promotion of habitat maintenance and enhancement more directly to agricultural soil and water needs," said the deputy minister. "Active participation of farmers is to be sought by providing them with direct financial incentives to design and implement farming systems which will help to conserve the soil, while also providing improved habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife."

(Cont'd)

McEwen said a key ingredient for success of the plan is development of an effective program to "fully" compensate farmers for crop damage.

"Because waterfowl can create serious localized crop losses, efforts to maintain and develop habitat will be seriously limited without a compensation program in place. We believe that a compensation program with international support is needed before the North American Waterfowl Management Plan can be implemented successfully."

Looking at it from a broader perspective the deputy minster supports the concept of taking marginal farmland out of agricultural production.

"The federal government concept is that marginal farmland, such as wetlands, or fine soils susceptible to wind and water erosion, or land with too steep a slope, should be taken out of production," said McEwen.

"Much of this land should never have been brought under cultivation in the first place. The problem is how to correct it. My theory, and I am not alone, is that farmers should be compensated for marginal land taken out of production.

"One positive aspect of the U.S. Farm Bill is that it does address this issue and has begun, through a compensation program, the process of returning marginal farmland to other uses."

The deputy minister says the major grain producing countries must set the example by taking the first step toward the removal of marginal farmland from grain production.

"I support the cutback in acreage, but I believe it has to be part of an international agreement among the major grain trading countries," he said. "I think the future trend will be toward reduced acreage. I think we have to promote more multiple-use programs of our land and water resources, and the public needs to be aware that farmers will have to be fully compensated for these changes."

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Contact: Ben McEwen
427-2145

For immediate release

Alberta underscores U.S. relationship

Because of close technical and economic ties with the United States, Alberta strongly endorses "the most open trading environment possible" between the two countries, says Alberta Agriculture's deputy minister.

Ben McEwen, speaking to delegates attending the annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America, said the province is looking for good news from the free-trade talks.

"As a result of our very close trading relationship with the United States, Alberta has great hopes for positive results from the Canada-U.S. Bilateral trade negotiations," McEwen told the Billings, Montana conference.

"We are interested in maximizing the benefits from our current two-way trade and taking full advantage of future opportunities. To do this and at the same time, provide security for access to each other's markets, Alberta feels that it is necessary to fully examine, and where possible, modify agricultural programs in the two countries whether directly or in a multilateral context."

As one of the key speakers at the conference of North American soil conservation specialists, the deputy minister said it is important to expand and maintain both our mutually beneficial trade relations and "technical and resource collaboration" with the U.S.

He said Canada and the U.S. are each other's largest trading partner with "agriculture and food a significant part of the total". But beyond trade the two countries share many common concerns and interests.

McEwen reviewed the scope of agriculture in Alberta, noting that along with achievements are also the challenges of soil and water conservation issues such as erosion and soil salinity.

He said although progressive and effective programs have been developed in Alberta, and with the federal government, new ideas and concepts are being monitored.

"We have been watching with great interest the development of the U.S. Farm Bill, in particular, the 'Conservation Compliance Section' which requires that a conservation plan be developed before producers are eligible (for benefits) under financial support programs," he said.

(Cont'd)

"This approach is important because if support programs are required they will encourage good land management. In Alberta and the rest of Canada, we are reviewing some of our own programs and policies to determine if, in fact, they might mitigate against good soil and water conservation management.

"For example, we have been reviewing our crop insurance program to determine if it discourages continuous cropping or encourages unnecessary summerfallow and tillage."

Other areas of mutual interest and co-operation noted by the deputy minister included the 1983 memorandum of understanding between Alberta and Montana aimed at promoting, and co-ordinating research and extension work on dryland salinity control.

"The approach used by the (Montana) Triangle Conservation District has served as a blueprint for our dryland salinity investigation service initiated in Alberta in 1985," said the deputy minister.

As well, Alberta farmers and agriculture extension staff have toured North Dakota to see their soil conservation efforts and pick up new ideas.

"Over the years, Alberta farmers, irrigation specialists and extension staff have benefited immensely from irrigation technology exchange with Idaho, Washington and especially with our next door neighbor, Montana," McEwen added.

He said although some states were at one time the information leaders, Alberta is now just as advanced in irrigation technology.

The deputy minister said it is also important to maintain international co-operation and co-ordination when dealing with water supply issues affecting both countries.

Referring to the Milk River Basin proposal along the Alberta/Montana border McEwen said, "Canada and Alberta are pursuing a storage project to permit utilization of our share of the flow. Alberta and Montana have recognized some issues of mutual concern and also the opportunity for operating a project with mutual benefits."

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"There has been and continues to be an open exchange of technical information relating to the project and an opportunity for Montana to influence the scope and nature of the studies being undertaken by Alberta."

McEwen said the province is pleased with the working relationshp between Alberta and "our southern neighbors and we look forward to a continuing exchange of ideas and technology in the future."

Headquartered in Iowa, the Soil Conservation Society of America is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting wise use of land and water resources. It has 13,000 members in the U.S., Canada and 80 other countries. Alberta and Ontario have the only two Canadian chapters. The society will be holding its annual meeting in Edmonton in 1989.

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Contact: Ben McEwen
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August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Dramatic increase in canola sales to Mexico

The combination of a quality product and effective promotion is paying off for the canola industry as sales to Mexico of the Western Canadian oilseed surpass all expectations.

Alberta Agriculture trade officials in Edmonton say more than 300,000 metric tonnes of Western Canada canola seed will be shipped to Mexican processing plants this year, up from about 120,000 tonnes in 1986.

Lou Normand and Doug Bienert, trade directors with Alberta Agriculture, who are both involved with market development in Mexico, say product promotions and meetings with industry and government officials have proven successful.

"We were projecting that last year's sales figures of 120,000 tonnes would increase to about 200,000 tonnes this year," says Normand. "But we are already over the 300,000 tonne mark and more sales are expected."

Alberta Agriculture has been working with Mexican government officials and agriculture industry representatives for several years promoting Alberta crops and livestock.

"The effort has led to a greater awareness and keen interest by Mexican officials in Alberta's agriculture commodities," says Bienert. "This interest has led to millions of dollars in sales of Alberta products."

Canola is one of the key Western Canada agriculture commodities which has caught the attention of Mexico's agriculture industry. Alberta produces about 40 per cent of the canola grown in Western Canada.

Japan is the major importer of western Canadian canola, buying about 50 per cent of the annual production. But Normand and Bienert say Mexico is becoming a dominant figure in the market. Sales this year to Mexico equal about 10 per cent of Western Canada canola production.

"Marketing efforts are now paying the dividends," says Normand. "As an example, one of the major Mexican oilseed processors, now discussing the purchase of about 100,000 tonnes of canola, was one of those visited last fall by Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley Cripps during a trade mission to Mexico."

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Mrs. Cripps was in Mexico to sign protocol and working agreements with Mexican officials. During the visit she toured oilseed processing plants and encouraged industry leaders to buy Canadian canola.

"That type of initiative has now brought one of the companies visited to Canada to discuss a major sale of canola," says the senior trade official.

Along with promoting sales, Alberta and Canadian officials are anxious to help Mexican industry develop the technical skill to process the crop.

Alberta Agriculture recently hired a consultant to conduct a survey of Mexico's oilseed processing industry to determine their needs and pinpoint technical problems encountered in processing canola.

As well, the Canadian Canola Council and the Canadian International Grain Institute, supported by Alberta Agriculture, recently hosted a two-week training course in Western Canada on canola processing.

Seventeen technical managers representing Mexico's oilseed processing industry, began the course in Manitoba, spent five days at the Protein, Oil and Starch Pilot Plant Corporation in Saskatoon where various refining processes are tested, and toured canola processing plants in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The training combined classroom lectures with hands-on demonstrations of the latest technology.

"Mexico has a well establish oilseed processing industry," says Bienert. "But traditionally they have processed soybeans and other oilseeds brought in from the United States and Brazil. As interest in canola grows these processors need to modify their operations. If we can provide them with the technical skills and processing technology they will be interested in buying more canola."

The trade directors say canola oil has been accepted readily by Mexican consumers. Both in pure form and blended with other vegetable oil, it has been introduced as a quality cooking product.

As well, byproducts of the canola crushing and refining processing are also in demand.

"There has been very good acceptance of canola meal as a protein supplement by the Mexican livestock industry," says Bienert. "It is used extensively in the poultry and swine industries and trial projects are now underway using it in dairy herd rations.

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"The Mexicans also manufacture a soap from byproducts of the oilseed crushing process that is very popular with their consumers."

The trade directors say Alberta Agriculture will continue working with Canadian industry and Mexican officials to promote the sale of agricultural products.

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Contact: Lou Normand
Doug Bienert
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August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Lambs in Lacombe set for September 19

Whether you're interested in Alberta's sheep industry, or just want to get Christmas shopping done early plan to attend the second annual Lambs in Lacombe fair September 19.

The sheep and wool exposition held at the Agriculture Canada research farm grounds in Lacombe is geared for all interests from sheep producers to the general public. Last year more than 2,000 people attended the event which features demonstrations, competitions, a commerical ewe sale and an extensive craft show and sale.

The only event of its kind in Alberta, Lambs in Lacombe is organized by the Blindman Valley Sheep Producers Association with assistance from individual sheep producers from across.

"This is an opportunity for sheepmen from across the province to buy top quality breeding stock," says Cathy Gallivan, Alberta Agriculture sheep specialist in Edmonton.
"As well, it's an opportunity for the industry to show the people of Alberta the diversity, and the skills and talents involved in producing sheep and wool."

The day's events, which get underway at 10 a.m., centre around a sale of performance tested commercial ewe lambs from across Alberta.

As well, there will be a live breed display this year, showcasing rams and ewes from the 10 different sheep breeds raised in Alberta.

There will be sheep dog trials sponsored by Western Pet Foods, a junior sheep show sponsored by UFA, a photo competition, a display of Angora goats, a shearing demonstration, a sheep to shawl competition, a trade show and a lamb barbecue. Admission is $1.

"The crafts show and sale will offer a wide range of reasonably priced items," says Gallivan. "There will be wool products such as sweaters and shawls, along with pottery, stained glass, jewelry and other hand-made crafts. It's a great place to find some unique items for Christmas gifts."

The specialist says there is some room left for producers to register for the ewe lamb sale. Last year 81 commercial ewe lambs were sold for an average price of $172. There are already 105 lambs booked for the 1987 sale.

"This is the only sale of its kind in Alberta," she says. "All sheep are performance tested and are checked before the sale by a veterinarian. Producers can buy here with confidence."

A survey of many of the 1986 buyers showed good results with most lambs performing above the provincial average. There is a $6 per head fee to register lambs for the sale, but no sale commission is charged. The lambs must be sheared, and weigh at least 100 pounds.

Deadline for registering sale lambs and entering competitions is August 31.

For more information and event applications contact 843-3494 or 748-2624.

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Contact: Cathy Gallivan
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August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Something for all horse lovers at Equi-Fair

Western Canada's major equine event will be held near Calgary in mid-September as Spruce Meadows hosts the 1987 Equi-Fair.

This annual horse show and competition combines three events - The Masters International Show Jumping Competition, an international trade fair and Alberta Breeds for the World display.

Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture horse specialist, says the five-day event, September 9 to 13, offers something for all horse enthusiasts from trainers and breeders, to pleasure-horse owners and people who just enjoy horses.

"The Masters competition is known worldwide for providing the finest in international show jumping," he says. "At the trade fair, the largest equine trade fair in North America, people can view all the latest in equine related products from local to international manufacturers.

"At the Alberta Breeds for The World display as many as 17 of the horse breeds available in Alberta will be on display for the public."

Along with seeing top quality Alberta horses, the public will also be exposed to competition among horses from around the world, ridden by major international riders. Practical horse-handling seminars will be offered during the event.

The Breeders' Hall and trade fair will be open September 9 and 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; September 11 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and September 12 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jumping competition begins at 8 a.m. and runs to about 5 p.m. daily.

Admission to the grounds, which includes all attractions, is $5 for adults and $2 for youths. There is no charge for children under 12 or seniors.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
436-9150

August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Alberta horse breeds showcased at Spruce Meadows

There's more variety to Alberta's equine industry than just "a horse of a different color" as some of the top breeders and owners in the province will prove in Calgary in September at the 1987 Equi-Fair.

As many as 17 different horse breeds will be on display during the annual five-day extravaganza held at Spruce Meadows, just south of Calgary, September 9 to 13.

Equi-Fair combines The Masters International Show Jumping Competition, with an international equine trade fair, and the Alberta Breeds for the World display.

"Alberta Breeds for the World is an important part of Equi-Fair," says Bob Coleman, an Alberta Agriculture horse specialist in Edmonton. "People will be able to see the range of breeds including miniature horses through a number of pony breeds; light horse breeds such as Arabians and Quarter Horses; and draft horse breeds such as Percherons and Belgians."

Breed representatives will be on hand at display booths in the Breeders Hall to provide information and give people a first-hand look at the different breeds of horses.

As well, there will be ongoing daily demonstrations in the hall which will highlight the performance capabilities of the breeds. A schedule of events will be available once visitors enter the Spruce Meadows grounds.

"Alberta Breeds for the World provides an opportunity for horse enthusiasts to see the variation and quality of horses Alberta horse breeders have to offer," says Coleman.

The Breeders' Hall and trade fair will be open September 9 and 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; September 11 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and September 12 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Admission to the grounds, which includes all attractions, is $5 for adults and $2 for youths. There is no charge for children under 12 or seniors.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
436-9150

August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Seminars tackle horse handling concerns

Anyone who has ever had trouble loading their horse into a trailer; been interested in hitching a team to a wagon; or just needed information on tack should plan to attend Equi-Fair at Spruce Meadows in September.

Along with world class show jumping and breed demonstrations, practical seminars of value to both expert and beginner horse handlers will be offered in the Breeders' Hall during the September 9 to 13 event.

The free hour-long seminars offered at least twice during the show will provide horse owners, with all levels of experience, the basic skills and some of the secrets in handling and equipping horses.

Bob Coleman, a horse specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton, says the seminars are a popular feature of the annual Equi-Fair. The event combines the Masters International Show Jumping Competition with an international trade fair and the Alberta Breeds for the World display.

Bill Collins, a noted horse expert from Calgary will conduct the seminar on trailering. Tailored for both new and experienced horse owners, the seminar will demonstrate techniques for dealing with horses which are hard to load and haul.

The trailering clinic will be offered Thursday September 10 at 1 p.m. and again Friday September 11 at 11:20 a.m.

The "driving" seminar is being offered this year in response to a renewed interest in the skills of hitching single horses or teams to buggies and wagons.

"Using the horse for pleasure driving is on the increase," says Coleman. "As well, there is a renewed interest in training and working draft horses in Alberta."

Karen Abel of Dawnville Morgan farms at Leduc will conduct the light-horse pleasure driving seminar, while Don Strandquist, a noted Percheron exhibitor from Stettler, will conduct the draft horse section.

The driving seminars will be offered Thursday September 10 at 3 p.m. and Friday September 11 at 1:20 p.m.

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Seminars tackle horse handling concerns (cont'd)

The third seminar in the series will draw on the advice of two Alberta experts to help horse owners make decisions about the proper selection and fitting of tack.

"With the tremendous variety of bits, bridles and saddles available to the horse owner, it is not surprising that confusion results when purchasing or using various pieces of riding equipment," says Coleman.

Millie Pratt an experienced horsewoman from Calgary will describe proper fitting and use of English tack, while Randy Dunham a professional horse trainer from Turner Valley will discuss the proper fitting and use of western tack.

The tack seminars will be offered Wednesday September 9 at 1 p.m.; Thursday September 10 at 11:40 a.m. and Friday September 11 at 3 p.m.

The Breeders' Hall and trade fair will be open September 9 and 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; September 11 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and September 12 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jumping competition begins at 8 a.m. and runs to about 5 p.m. daily.

Admission to the grounds, which includes all attractions, is $5 for adults and $2 for youths. There is no charge for children under 12 or seniors.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
436-9150

August 17, 1987
For immediate release

World expert guest at Equi-Fair

A leading world authority on treating lameness in horses will be guest lecturer in September at Western Canada's largest equine show and competition.

Dr. Rick Redden, a veterinarian from Versailles, Kentucky, will conduct a two-day seminar for veterinarians as a part of events surrounding Equi-Fair at Spruce Meadows near Calgary.

Equi-Fair, September 9 to 13, is the premier Western Canadian equine event, combining the Masters International Show Jumping Competition, an international equine trade fair, and Alberta Breeds for the World display.

Redden is a world reknown expert on treating injuries and diseases causing lower leg lameness in horses. A much sought after speaker and lecturer, he is considered a pioneer of many dramatic, yet effective, techniques used in treating leg and foot ailments.

He is also founder of the International Equine Podiatry Foundation which sponsors an annual laminitis symposium in Kentucky. Laminitis is one of the leading causes of lameness in horses.

Bob Coleman, an Alberta Agriculture horse specialist in Edmonton, says Redden will provide veterinarians attending the September 10 and 11 seminar with a technical review of the latest advances in treatment and care of horses affected by lameness. The veternarian seminars have proven to be a popular new feature of Equi-Fair.

The annual event, with appeal to horse experts and the general public alike, features world class show jumping, the largest equine trade fair in North America, and a showcase of 17 top horse breeds raised in Alberta.

The Breeders' Hall and trade fair will be open September 9 and 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; September 11 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and September 12 and 13 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jumping competitions begin at 8 a.m. and run to about 5 p.m. daily.

Admission to the grounds, which includes all attractions, is $5 for adults, $2 for youths; and is free for children under 12 and seniors.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
436-9150

August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Ag engineers plan Lethbridge conference

Some of the latest engineering advances in small power-generating systems, irrigation, farm buildings, grain drying and a host of other topics will be on the agenda in September as agriculture engineers from the Pacific Northwest meet in Lethbridge for their annual meeting.

Farmers and industry representatives interested in agricultural engineering are welcome to join members of the American and Canadian Societies of Agriculture Engineers at their September 23 to 25 conference.

Bill Mains, a facilities management engineer with the Agriculture Canada research station in Lethbridge, says about 120 members from the Pacific Northwest Region, are expected to participate.

Mains notes while some of the 35 papers to be presented over the two days will be fairly technical, many topics should prove useful to people working at the field level.

"Guests are welcome to register for the conference and participate," he says. "The subjects being addressed range from the theoretical to the practical, so there should be something there for everyone."

Dr. Wayne Lindwall, head of the soils and tillage division at the Lethbridge Research Station is conference chairman.

This is the first time in more than a decade the agricultural engineers have held their annual meeting in southern Alberta. The two societies, with about 550 members in Alberta, B.C., Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, rotate the meetings through member states and provinces. The conference was held in Edmonton in 1980.

The society members are professional engineers involved in agriculture extension and research work. Primarily working for government, universities and agri-businesses they specialize in such areas as forestry, irrigation, structural engineering, soil, water and other disciplines.

John Calpas director of Alberta Agriculture's irrigation and conservation division in Lethbridge, and Wally Chinn, a department irrigation specialist in Taber will be theme speakers at the conference, giving a perspective of Alberta soil and water issues.

(Cont'd)

To wrap up the program September 25 delegates will have a choice of attending seminars or participating in short tours in the Lethbridge area. Sites to be visited include a wind generation test station, the PAMI facilities, and the Lethbridge Research Station.

Anyone interested in attending can contact Alberta Agriculture regional engineering offices for registration forms and information.

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Contact: Dr. Theron Sommerfeldt,
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327-4561

August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Weather situation is either a feast or famine

After being worried earlier this summer that crops were going to burn up in hot, dry weather, many Alberta farmers are now hoping the rain stops so they can attend to harvest.

Although conditions are generally considered not too wet, farmers will need warm, dry weather in the next few weeks to help crops mature and to complete combining.

Concerns about dry conditions in Alberta, through June and into July were replaced in late July by concern about severe weather, says a specialist with Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton.

Peter Dzikowski, agricultural weather resource specialist, says that above normal rainfall in the second half of July brought relief from the dry conditions experienced early in the month.

However, the relief was short lived, as the last days of July brought severe weather, which included hail, heavy rainfall, high winds, and a tornado in Edmonton and area. There was flooding reported in the southern part of the Peace River block.

"However, most of Alberta's agricultural producers had adequate to good moisture conditions in July, and the average temperatures for the month were near normal," he says. "Calgary, Coronation and Lethbridge received twice the normal rainfall amount for July. Pincher Creek was the wettest spot in Alberta, reporting 148.3 millimetres of rainfall, three and a half times the 45 millimetres normally received in July. Most other areas had near or above normal July rainfall amounts."

The specialist says overall, July was a month of generally improving weather conditions for agriculture.

"This changed drastically at the end of July for those who got hit by severe weather," said Dzikowski. "Weather conditions during the first week of August have been wet and cool in central and northern Alberta, but drier in southern Alberta. Now that moisture is not a problem, growers are on the outlook for frost."

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski - 422-4385

August 17, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

ALFALFA TO YOGURT FEATURED AT DAIRY CONGRESS

More than 1,000 visitors and 75 exhibitors recently converged on Leduc to make the first Alberta Dairy Congress a success. Janette MacDonald-Adam, Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist in Leduc said the two day event drew dairy farmers from across Alberta and part of Saskatchewan. Exhibits ranged from feed production to commercial rations; from milking equipment to ice cream; and from semen to calf hutches. "Many producers came back the second day, just so they could see everything," said MacDonald-Adam. Along with the trade show there were informational seminars on topics ranging from the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, embryo transplants, 21 day progesterone tests and the bovine growth hormone, bovine somatotropin. The DA says plans are already being made for the 1988 event.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND INTERPROVINCIAL HORT SHOW

Whether you plan to exhibit your own garden produce and flowers or just admire the accomplishment of others, the Interprovincial Horticultural Show in Lloydminster is well worth attending say organizers. Experts and hobbyists alike are urged to set aside August 23 and 24 for one of the major horticultural showcases of the year. Entries will be accepted until 8 a.m. August 23. Staging of exhibits will be allowed from 4 p.m. August 22 to 8:30 a.m. August 23. Judging gets underway at 9 a.m. The show will be open for public viewing from 2 to 10 p.m. August 23 and from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. August 24. For more information on the interprovincial show contact Kay Hauer at (403) 875-8218 or Irmgard Jurke at (403) 875-8320.

(Cont'd)

PUBLIC INVITED TO WILD RICE FIELD DAY SATURDAY AUGUST 29

Both wild rice growers and consumers will find something of interest August 29 at the annual Alberta Wild Rice Field Day at Jackfish Lake, in north central Alberta. The day is designed to provide those involved in the industry with a chance to compare notes and discuss new technology. As well, the public is invited to see how wild rice is grown and harvested. The field day begins in the morning with an information session at Park View Hall, just north of the Athabasca airport, followed by boat tours of the wild rice harvesting operation. Dave Burdek, a wild rice specialist working for the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association in Lac La Biche, says participants could make it a camping weekend. Jackfish Lake, east and north of Athabasca, is one of 600 Alberta lakes which have been seeded to wild rice in the last three years. Although formal registration isn't required, Burdek asks anyone planning to attend to advise himself or district agriculturist Harvey Yoder at 623-5219 in Lac La Biche, before August 29.

TRACTOR FUEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS RESCHEDULED

The tractor fuel demonstration projects in the Peace River region, cancelled earlier because of bad weather, are tentatively being rescheduled for late August. Alberta Agriculture officials say the demonstration days planned for Rycroff, Eaglesham, Girouxville and Nampa will likely be held the week of August 24. Farmers in those areas are asked to check with their local district agriculturist for dates and locations. A demonstration planned for the Manning district has been rescheduled to August 20. The demonstration tractor has been specially equipped with an on-board computer to show how operating the tractor in different gears at different throttle can affect fuel use. It is a joint project of Alberta Agriculture and Olds College.

AGRI-NEWS

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August 24, 1987

CANADIANA
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For immediate release

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Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

August 24, 1987
For immediate release

4-H annual media blitz and recruitment campaign underway

Alberta Agriculture Minister Peter Elzinga announced today the beginning of both the Seventh Annual Alberta 4-H Media Blitz as well as the annual 4-H recruitment campaign.

Mr. Elzinga stated, "Over the 70 years it has existed in Alberta, 4-H has established a very successful record of helping young people become involved in projects which provide a lifetime of benefits, as well as many new relationships and new experiences."

Since 4-H members must be between the ages of 10 and 21, recruitment is an ongoing process. Each year a number of young people become eligible to join 4-H, and they form the primary target for each year's recruitment campaign. A second target are potential leaders to help young 4-Hers to progress.

This year's recruitment campaign has been carefully planned. Its theme, selected by six teenaged members of the provincial 4-H promotion committee, is "The 4-H Team - Check it out".

"What we are asking is for parents to assess if 4-H can be a benefit to their children. We are also asking for 4-H graduates, indeed adults of any age, to become leaders, if they can spare some time to help our young people," said Mr. Elzinga.

The media has an important role to play in helping to promote 4-H to inform potential members and leaders. Different types of 4-H representatives, Premier's Award finalists, senior 4-H members, 4-H graduates and leaders, are available to describe their experiences and to promote 4-H to those whom it might benefit.

Said Mr. Elzinga: "This involves enlisting any and all media to promote the new 4-H year. Although there are a number of techniques for doing this, I would simply like to encourage all media to get involved if they possibly can."

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"As well, I would encourage parents and young people to get involved in 4-H. Year after year, 4-H has shown that it works, that it gets young people (and older folks too) involved in different activities, and that young people and adults both benefit from the experience. 4-H can always use more members and more leaders."

Over the last few weeks, most media should have received a 4-H media kit and may have even been contacted directly by 4-H representatives.

Mr. Elzinga concluded by saying, "Once again, I would urge media to take this opportunity to become involved in something which will have both short and long-term benefits for the community."

For further information on any aspect of 4-H, media and individuals can contact regional 4-H specialists or local district home economists.

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August 24, 1987
For immediate release

New theory emerges on timing of insemination

Alberta dairy producers and cattlemen having trouble getting livestock to conceive on the first breeding service may be following an outdated timetable.

A specialist with Alberta Agriculture says research has shown that one of the old rules of thumb about the timing of breeding may be off the mark.

Dr. Laura Rutter, a reproductive physiologist with the beef cattle and sheep branch in Edmonton, says the "A.M.-P.M." theory, used by many producers in controlled breeding operations, is being challenged.

Using the "A.M. - P.M." rule a farmer seeing signs of heat in a cow in the morning (A.M.) would artificially inseminate or allow the bull to service the cow in the afternoon (P.M.) and vice-versa.

"It was assumed that seeing a cow in heat meant estrus had just begun, so waiting a few hours to service the cow would bring the timing of insemination closer to her time of ovulation," says Rutter. "But by delaying insemination, sperm may not have time to mature and fertilize the egg.'

Rutter is talking about the process of "capacitation". She says studies confirm that just because the cow has been inseminated that doesn't mean the sperm is immediately ready to go to work.

Capacitation is the process of final maturation of the male sperm inside the female genital tract. Capacitation allows for changes in the structure and behavior of sperm enabling it to penetrate the shell around the female egg and achieve fertilization.

"This process takes as much as four hours in the cow once the sperm is inside the female genital tract," says Rutter. " Once an egg is ovulated, it too has a very short fertile life span. If insemination takes place too close to the time of ovulation the sperm may not be fully matured and will miss the optimum time to fertilize and activate the egg as it passes through the cow's system."

In pasture breeding, a bull and cow will work out the timing on their own. Rutter says a bull with only one cow will probably service her several times during her heat period to make sure bases are covered. On the other

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hand a bull under breeding pressure with a half dozen or more cows to service, may only breed a cow once, when she first comes into heat.

But in controlled breeding set-ups such as dairy herds and purebred beef cattle operations where artificial insemination is used, the onus is on the producer to decide the best time to breed.

Rutter says recent research also shows, in the event that a cow is bred early in the heat period, nature has developed a mechanism to protect and maintain the sperm inside the female tract for up to 18 to 30 hours before ovulation.

"These studies indicate that the fertilizing population of sperm cells spends most of the time before ovulation in the oviduct," says Rutter. "There is now strong scientific evidence that a part of the oviduct (isthmus) acts as a functional sperm reservoir - similar to that of the male epididymis.

"Indeed, the oviduct isthmus appears to have evolved a specific physiology for this purpose including secretion of modified chemicals, a lowered temperature and altered oxygen/carbon dioxide tensions."

Secretions from the ovary and the follicle containing the egg to be ovulated appear to control the microenvironment within the oviduct.

As ovulation approaches, a message is sent to the female oviduct, where the sperm is held, signalling the sperm to begin the capacitation process.

"We're dealing with recent research and more study is needed, but there are a couple of messages here for producers," says Rutter. "First, if farmers are using a system that is giving them a good conception rate on first service I would say 'don't change your system'. If on the other hand a farmer is using the A.M.-P.M. rule or other indicators and the first service conception rate is poor, he should consider breeding cattle at the first sign of heat."

She says that the A.M.-P.M. theory or waiting until the end of the estrus before insemination will work, provided the farmer can accurately determine the beginning and end of the heat cycle.

Rutter says 70 per cent of cows begin their estrus cycle at night, so that by the time the farmer sees signs of heat in the morning, the cow is already well on her way to ovulation.

Also complicating matters, the milk production pressure placed on dairy cows today makes it difficult to detect heat.

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New theory emerges on timing of insemination (cont'd)

The specialist says farmers should aim for a 75 per cent first service conception rate among mature lactating dairy cows, and an 85 per cent first service conception rate on virgin heifers.

For more information on research involving timing of insemination, producers should contact their regional livestock or dairy specialist or Dr. Rutter in Edmonton at 427-5304.

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Contact: Dr. Laura Rutter
427-5304

The following table shows the minimum length of time for the capacitation process to be completed for three species of domestic animals, along with the usual time of ovulation.

Species	Interval (hours)	Usual Time of Ovulation
Sheep	1 - 1.5	1 hour before end of estrus
Pig	2 - 3	18-60 hours after estrus begins
Cow	4 - 5	10-14 hours after end of estrus

References:
Bedford, J.M. 1970. Biology of Reproduction, Supplement 2, 128.
Hunter, R.H.F. and R. Nichol. 1983. J. Exper. Zool. 228:121.
Hunter, R.H.F. and R. Nichol. 1986. J. Reprod. Fertil. 77:599.

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Brand registration fees increase

Livestock owners wanting to register a brand will now be paying more for this service. Fee increases were announced by Alberta Agriculture August 12.

The registration of a brand will increase from $5 to $25 and brand renewal from $2 to $20. Bill Herbert, head of regulatory services with the department, points out that a brand is registered to the owner for a period of four years and renewal is required at four-year intervals thereafter.

Over 52,000 livestock brands are registered in Alberta. The Brand Recorder's Office is located in the Provincial Building in Stettler. All registrations, renewals or transfers of brands are carried out at this office.

"Brand registration fees have not increased for 25 years in Alberta and this new fee structure will bring the costs in line with other provinces and states in the U.S.," says Herbert.

"The fee increases are part of the government's policy of recovering costs for services and at the same time, providing a very useful service to the livestock industry."

He points out that a registered brand is your own mark of identification to be applied to a particular location on an animal. That brand belongs to you and it's illegal if anyone else uses it. Branding livestock is an efficient way of identifying livestock and provides good protection against theft.

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Contact: C.W. (Bill) Herbert
427-5098

August 24, 1987
For immediate release

No major change in custom harvesting rates

Farmers planning to hire swathing, combining and grain hauling services should check the range of rates charged by Alberta contractors, says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Garth Nickorick, a farm management economist with the farm business management branch in Olds, says many of the available contractors are listed in the department's directory of custom operators.

Quoting 1986 prices, Nickorick says rates aren't expected to change dramatically this year.

Swathing costs will be between $4 and $5 per acre or $35 to $40 per hour, while combining rates will be between $12 to $14 per acre or $90 to $125 per hour.

Nickorick says although the hourly rate for larger machines will be at the higher end of the scale, it should work out to be about the same cost on a per-acre basis.

The rate for combining irrigated grain crops, which tend to be heavier work for the machine, are between $15 and $20 per acre.

The cost of trucking grain one or two miles from the field to storage facilities will range from $30 to $40 an hour.

Nickorick says a list of custom harvesting operators is included in the Directory of Custom Operators in Alberta - 1987, (Agdex - 825-17). The directory is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, from the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1P0; or Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

For more information on hourly and per acre rates contact Garth Nickorick in Olds at 556-4247 or RITE 154-1247.

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Contact: Garth Nickorick
(403) 556-4247
RITE 154-1247

August 24, 1987
For immediate release

Beef cattle production study results

According to research results reported in the 1987 University of Alberta "Feeder's Day Report", 48-hour separation of calves from their mothers, just before the start of the breeding season, produced a modest, but not statistically significant improvement in conception rates and number of calves born in the following year.

Researchers found that the temporary separation of calves from their mothers did not appear to reduce their weaned weight at the end of the summer. When compared with cows with condition scores of 2.5 or less and 3.5 or more, it was found that cows with condition scores of 3.0 at calving tended to perform better in terms of conception rate and calf crop born in the following year.

Ross Gould, head of animal management with Alberta Agriculture, says these and other study results contained in the report should be of special interest to beef and sheep producers.

One study showed that replacement heifers fed low, medium and high levels of grain, during the period from weaning to the breeding season, showed daily gains of 0.22, 0.70 and 1.20 pounds respectively. Gould says these differences were reflected in smaller pelvic openings and more cases of calving difficulty in the heifers fed the low levels of grain. On the other hand, he says, heifers receiving the high levels of grain showed first signs of heat an average of one to two weeks earlier than the other two groups. In spite of these differences, the level of grain feeding did not have significant effects on pregnancy rate, birth date or the birth weight of the first calf crop from these heifers. Heifers fed the low and medium levels of grain were able to compensate, to a large extent, for their lighter weights during the period between one and two years of age.

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Another study indicated that bulls fed higher energy diets showed larger rib eye areas and grew faster than those receiving less energy. Gains were 3.3, 3.5 and 3.7 pounds per day respectively for bulls receiving low, medium and high energy levels. Bulls receiving higher energy diets had higher testes weights but the energy in the diet did not appear to affect any other scrotal traits such as circumference, scrotal fat, skin weight or skin thickness, says Gould. Difference between breeds appeared to have more of an effect on scrotal traits than the difference in diet in this trial. He notes that gains were relatively high in all diets in this trial. All of the diets could be considered to be relatively high in energy.

More detailed information on these and other studies for both beef cattle and sheep is available in the full report. To obtain a copy contact the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or request the Feeder's Day special issue of the Agriculture and Forestry Bulletin from the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T8G 2G4.

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Contact: Ross Gould
427-5335

August 24, 1987
For immediate release

Cold weather effects on livestock

Low temperatures can increase the rate of muscle protein breakdown in agricultural animals, according to a research study reported in the 1987 University of Alberta "Feeder's Day Report".

Researchers suggest that a better understanding of this process may lead to ways of reducing this breakdown and so improve the efficiency of meat production in cold environments. For example, they found that cold temperatures were associated with a large and significant increase in blood plasma concentrations of the thyroid hormones. The increased thyroid may be at least partly responsible for increased muscle protein breakdown in cattle exposed to cold.

It was also reported that the apparent maintenance energy requirement for cold acclimatized shorn sheep was considerably less than would have been predicted from studies involving exposing unacclimatized sheep to similar cold temperatures. The same studies showed that water loss through urine and evaporation was directly proportional to the environmental temperature.

Full details on this and other research studies for both beef cattle and sheep are available in the full report. To obtain a copy contact the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or request the Feeder's Day special issue of the Agriculture and Forestry Bulletin from the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T8G 2G4.

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Contact: Ross Gould
427-5335

August 24, 1987
For immediate release

Feed quality, storage and preservation

Livestock producers may be interested in learning the results of a study that determined which plastic silo bags were most successful in preserving high quality silage. The study involved testing and comparing plastic silo bags available commercially for the amount of spoilage and quality of the silage over a 14-month period after harvest.

"This and other studies dealing with feed quality, storage and preservation are contained in the 1987 University of Alberta 'Feeder's Day Report'", says Ross Gould, head of animal management with Alberta Agriculture. Here are brief summaries of some of the reports.

--Preserving high moisture barley with ammonia reduced the rate of rumen degradation of both protein and other dry matter. Gould says this is considered to be an advantage because more of the nutrients may then be available for digestion and absorption in the lower digestive tract. "It was also found that a rate of two per cent ammonia resulted in only a moderate improvement of digestive characteristics compared with the one per cent rate," reports Gould.

--Sulfur dioxide as a preservative of high moisture barley was only effective in improving the rumen degradation of dry matter and protein when the moisture content of the barley was lower than 30 per cent. "It was suggested that, if the beneficial effects of sulfur dioxide are susceptible to moisture changes, the product may have limited potential because moisture content is very hard to control in the harvesting process," says Gould.

--Frozen and sprouted barley showed reduced rumen degradability of both dry matter and crude protein. In spite of this there was no major effect on daily gains, average daily feed intake or feed to gain ratios. Gould says this suggested that the current indicators of damage in frozen and sprouted grain may not be satisfactory in predicting the feeding value of these grains.

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Copies of the full report are available from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or by requesting the Feeder's Day special issue of the Agriculture and Forestry Bulletin from the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T8G 2G4.

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Contact: Ross Gould
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August 24, 1987
For immediate release

Barley varieties

Information on the tolerance of barley varieties to a herbicide is generated during the development process of the herbicide by the herbicide manufacturer and its cooperators. Tolerance testing of commonly cultivated regional varieties is conducted under varied environmental conditions. The information is submitted to Agriculture Canada by the herbicide manufacturer to obtain registration for the use of the herbicide on barley or specific varieties of barley.

The development of new varieties of barley, like any other crop, is an on-going effort on the part of barley breeders in search of better varieties to meet the specific needs of growers and the market. The new varieties are extensively tested to ascertain their suitability under varying growing conditions and their susceptibility to insect pests and crop diseases. However, this evaluation system does not include testing the tolerance of these new varieties to herbicides registered for weed control in barley. A new variety is usually registered or licensed for cultivation without any information on its tolerance to registered herbicides.

The herbicide manufacturer generally is not interested in generating information on the tolerance of new varieties to existing products. This is because such information is not required by Agriculture Canada to affect the current registration status of a herbicide. Therefore, little information on the tolerance of new varieties to registered herbicides is available to agricultural producers including seed growers.

In 1983, the Weed Science Group of the Alberta Environmental Centre at Vegreville initiated a project for testing tolerance of varieties of barley and wheat to herbicides. Since then 38 barley varieties including 16 two-row and 22 six-row varieties have been field tested.

Several experiments were conducted during the last four growing

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seasons to evaluate the tolerance of barley varieties to registered herbicides and herbicide mixtures, and to experimental herbicides and herbicide mixtures. Herbicides were applied at the recommended rates and in some cases the treatment was repeated with twice the recommended rate. The higher rate was tested to ascertain crop safety. The conclusions based on some observations and data are summarized in the table.

The tested barley varieties in the table showed acceptable to excellent tolerance to most of the herbicides including Hoe-Grass II, Avenge 200C, Torch DS, Sabre, Banvel, Dyvel, Blagal and a tank-mix of Torch DS plus Glean but tolerance to Hoe-Grass 284, registered for the control of grassy weeds in barley, was variable. Although most varieties showed excellent tolerance to this herbicide, two-row barley variety Ellice and six-row barley variety Heartland suffered from extended initial injury, resulting in a delay in maturity, following treatment at 2.0 L/ac. Heartland barley also suffered some loss in yield.

All varieties except Jackson, Leduc, Harrington and Abee suffered from initial injury, delay in maturity and/or some loss in yield, following treatment with Sencor plus Banvel, a registered tank mix for the control of broadleaved weeds in cereals. Jackson and Harrington showed excellent tolerance to the treatment but Leduc and Abee suffered from extended initial injury, resulting in a delay in maturity, following treatment with Sencor plus Banvel at a higher rate (324 + 164 mL/ac).

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Editor's note: Attached for further information is a table outlining tolerance of barley varieties to registered herbicides.

TOLERANCE OF RECENTLY LICENSED BARLEY VARIETIES TO REGISTERED HERBICIDES

HERBICIDE		Barley Varieties													
		6-row										2-row			
PRODUCT	RATE	DIAMOND	DUKE	EMPRESS	HEARTLAND	JACKSON	LEDUC	NOBLE	SAMSON	TUPPER	WINCHESTER	ELLICE	DEUCE	HARRINGTON	ABEE
1. Hoe-Grass	1.0 L/ac	T	•	T	T	T	T	•	T	T	•	T	•	T	T
2. Hoe-Grass	2.0 L/ac	T	•	T	SS	T	T	•	T	T	•	MT	•	T	T
3. Hoe-Grass II	1.4 L/ac	T	•	T	T	T	•	T	T	T	•	T	•	T	T
4. Hoe-Grass II	2.8 L/ac	T	•	T	T	T	•	T	T	T	•	T	•	T	T
5. Avenge - 200C	1.7 L/ac	T	•	T	T	T	T	•	T	T	•	T	•	T	T
6. Avenge - 200C	3.4 L/ac	T	•	T	T	T	T	•	T	T	•	T	•	T	T
7. Torch DS	315 ml/ac	T	T	•	T	T	•	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
8. Sabre	280 ml/ac	T	T	•	T	T	•	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
9. Torch DS + Glean	225 ml/ac+6.0 g/ac	T	T	•	T	T	•	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
10. Banvel	93 ml/ac	T	T	•	T	T	•	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
11. Dyvel	530 ml/ac	T	T	•	T	T	•	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
12. Sencor + Banvel	162+ 84 ml/ac	MT	•	MT	SS	T	T	•	SS	SS	•	MT	•	T	T
13. Sencor + Banvel	324+168 ml/ac	MT	•	MT	SS	T	MT	•	SS	SS	•	MT	•	T	MT
14. Blagal	907 ml/ac	T	•	T	T	T	•	T	T	T	•	T	•	T	T
15. Blagal	1814 ml/ac	T	•	T	T	T	•	T	T	T	•	T	•	T	T

• = Variety not tested
T = Tolerant: Suffered none to some initial injury with no effect on crop maturity and yield.
MT = Moderately Tolerant: Suffered prolonged injury resulting in delay in crop maturity (approximately 3-5 days) and no effect on crop yield.
SS = Slightly Sensitive: Suffered prolonged injury resulting in loss in crop yield (approximately 5-10%).

Alberta Agriculture, Print Media Branch, Phone: (403) 427-2121

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For immediate release

1987-88 statutory grain freight rates published

Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with Alberta Economic Development and Trade, has published a booklet on the statutory grain freight rates from Alberta to Vancouver/Prince Rupert and Thunder Bay for the 1987-88 crop year. The new rates are effective from August 1, 1987 to July 31, 1988.

The main objective of this booklet is to provide producers and other interested groups with information on statutory grain fright rates from local delivery points to the West Coast ports of Vancouver/Prince Rupert and to Thunder Bay.

The publication shows the local shipping points alphabetically, the railway which services the point, the mileage to port upon which the freight rate is based, the base rate scale, the total 1987-88 rail freight rate, the amount of rail freight to be paid by the federal government, the producer share under The Western Grain Transportation Act (WGTA) and the net producer share.

Copies of "Statutory Grain Freight Rates from Alberta to Vancouver/Prince Rupert and Thunder Bay" (Agdex 843-4), are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices; the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; Production and Resource Economics Branch, Alberta Agriculture; and Transportation Services, Alberta Economic Development.

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Contact: Nabi Chaudhary
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August 24, 1987
For immediate release

Custom silage rates

The 1987 survey results of custom charges for silage operations shows charges vary within the province depending on local and field conditions and length of haul, says Maureen Whitlock with Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch.

The rates were obtained through a direct survey of Alberta's operators providing the services and were compiled by Whitlock.

General figures show the cost for cutting, chopping, hauling and packing ranged from $12 to $16 per wet ton.

Cutting costs ranged from $7 to $10 per acre or $45 to $60 per hour. Chopping rates were $100 to $150 per hour or $2.75 to $6 per wet ton. Hauling from the field to storage within 10 miles was $3.80 to $4.50 per wet ton.

Bagged silage rates, which included chopping, hauling and bagging varied according to bag size. The following rates are the most commonly quoted according to bag dimensions and include purchase of the bag.

8' X 150'	$1,450 to $1,800
9' X 135'	$1,800
9' X 200'	$2,400 to $2,600
10' X 150' to 200'	$2,400 to $3,200

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Contact: Maureen Whitlock
427-4011

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Custom haying rates

The cost of hay operations using custom contractors has not changed much from last year according to new figures obtained by Alberta Agriculture.

The rates were obtained through a direct survey of Alberta operators providing the services and were compiled by Maureen Whitlock of the department's statistics branch.

Whitlock notes that although rates vary from area to area, reflecting local conditions, the survey shows little change in rates.

The survey results indicate mowing and conditioning charges are in the $5 to $10 per acre range with the most commonly quoted rate in all regions being $7 to $8 per acre.

Square baling costs range from 25¢ to 35¢ per bale with the most common rate being 30¢ per bale. Stacking and hauling rates range from 20¢ to 30¢ per bale (distance up to 1 mile) throughout the province with the most common rate being 25¢ to 30¢ per bale.

For large round bales (1250 - 1500 lb) baling charges most commonly quoted were $5 to $7 per bale. Stacking and hauling within a mile of the field added $1 to $2 per bale to the cost.

It should be noted that any additional service such as raking, covering or longer distance hauling added to the costs.

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Contact: Maureen Whitlock
427-4011

August 24, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

PUBLIC INVITED TO WILD RICE FIELD DAY SATURDAY AUGUST 29

Both wild rice growers and consumers will find something of interest August 29 at the annual Alberta Wild Rice Field Day at Jackfish Lake, in north central Alberta. The day is designed to provide those involved in the industry with a chance to compare notes and discuss new technology. As well, the public is invited to see how wild rice is grown and harvested. The field day begins in the morning with an information session at Park View Hall, just north of the Athabasca airport, followed by boat tours of the wild rice harvesting operation. Dave Burdek, a wild rice specialist working for the Alberta Wild Rice Growers' Association in Lac La Biche, says participants could make it a camping weekend. Jackfish Lake, east and north of Athabasca, is one of 600 Alberta lakes which have been seeded to wild rice in the last three years. Although formal registration isn't required, Burdek asks anyone planning to attend to advise himself or district agriculturist Harvey Yoder at 623-5219 in Lac La Biche, before August 29.

RISK IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

"Risk in Water Resources Management" is the theme of a conference to be hosted by the Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Water Resources Association, October 7 and 8. The purpose of the conference is to provide an overview of the increasing consideration of uncertainty and risk in planning, developing and operating water related systems. The conference will deal with risk management and risk considerations related to the design of large hydraulic structures, urban stormwater management, floodplain regulation, groundwater, water quality, agricultural production and other areas in the water resources field. The conference will be held at the Marlborough Inn in Calgary. For further information contact Russ Lewis, Nanuk Engineering Ltd., 380-4500 16 Avenue, N.W., Calgary, Alberta, T3B 0M6, or phone 247-6611.

(Cont'd)

RAMS PREFER WOOLY EWES

Research at the Agriculture Canada Research Station at Lethbridge has shown that rams "prefer" wooly ewes over shorn ewes at mating. Ewes in heat that had full or half fleeces were bred more frequently than recently shorn ewes, thus increasing pregnancy rate. L.A. McClelland, a sheep scientist with the research station, says ewes are more likely to have higher ovulation rates and synchronized breeding if rams have been kept out of sight and smelling distance of the ewes for at least two months before their introduction at mating. "A distance of at least one kilometre is suggested, but on smaller farms, rams could be kept in a shed away from the ewes," she says. This technique can be used to advance the breeding season by four to eight weeks.

STUDY RESULTS ON GROWTH STIMULANTS

The growth implant Ralgro used on beef cows at 140 days of pregnancy had no effect on cow reproduction or calf growth rates, according to a research report issued in the 1987 University of Alberta "Feeder's Day Report". There were slightly heavier weights and larger pelvic openings in heifers implanted at 140 days of pregnancy. Ralgrow is not registered for use on breeding females. In a second study, lambs fed Cimaterol, a new growth regulator which has not yet been registered for commercial use, showed a 17.5 per cent improvement in daily gains. There was a major improvement in feed to gain ratios in lambs fed on low energy intake diets but not when high energy diets were fed. Cimaterol improved the lean content of the lamb carcasses and reduced the amount of carcass back fat. Full details on these and other studies of special interest to beef and sheep producers are available in the full report. Copies can be obtained from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; or by requesting the Feeder's Day special issue of the Agriculture and Forestry Bulletin from the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T8G 2G4.

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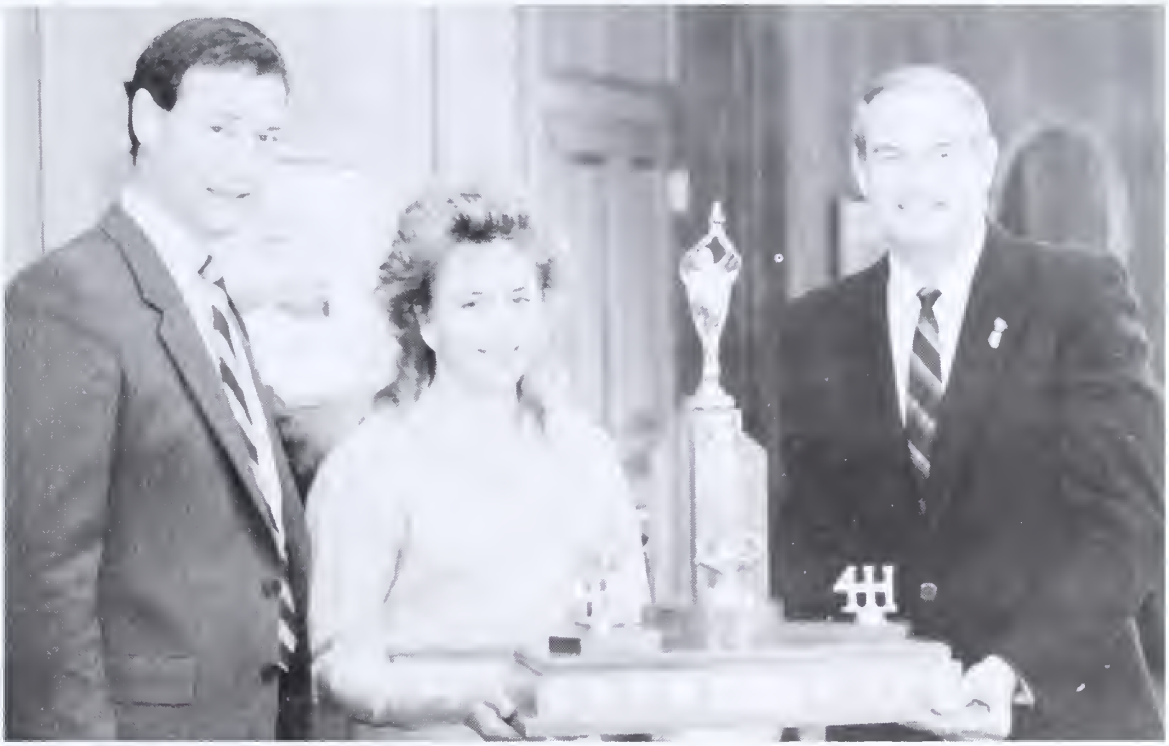
Top 4-H'er meets Alberta premier



1987 Alberta Premier's Award winner, Gail Cunningham with Premier Don Getty (right) and Agriculture Minister, Peter Elzinga (left).

The 1987 Alberta 4-H Premier's Award winner recently met Premier Don Getty and Agriculture Minister, Peter Elzinga.

Gail Cunningham, 17, of Kelsey, 30 kilometres southeast of Camrose, was chosen Premier's Award winner at a provincial 4-H Selections program in May. The title is the highest honor a 4-H member can receive in Alberta. Twenty-three Alberta 4-H senior members have been honored as Premier's Award winner since the award was initiated in 1964.

Gail, a Bawlf 4-H Beef Club member for eight years, met the premier and minister with her parents and a sister August 17 at the provincial legislature building.

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Top 4-H'er meets Alberta premier (cont'd)

The 4-H Premier's Award winner represents Alberta 4-H members at various official functions during the one-year term of office. Gail has taken part in major parades, fairs and media promotions since winning the title.

Accomplished in public speaking, beef showmanship and school athletics, the Roseland High School student will enter Grade 12 this fall to enroll at the University of Alberta next year.

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Contact: Bob Coe
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August 31, 1987
For immediate release

Good soil moisture reserves pay

Soil moisture reserves are very important for annual crop production because they increase yield and protect the crop from drought, says a water management specialist with Alberta Agriculture. "One inch of water will increase the yield of both hard red spring wheat and canola by four bushels per acre, and barley by six bushels per acre," reports Dick Heywood with the conservation and development branch in Lethbridge. "That same inch will provide five to 10 days additional drought protection."

Soil moisture reserves result from storage in the soil of natural precipitation that falls between crops. Heywood notes that the storage achieved depends on four factors: the precipitation that occurs, how well it is stored, the length of time for storage, and the soil itself. Management determines the length of time of storage, storage efficiency and perhaps the soil's ability to store moisture.

Crop rotational factors determine the time in which storage can occur. "Storage will either occur over eight or 20 months, depending on whether summerfallowing is done or not," says Heywood.

Precipitation storage efficiency is controlled by management in any soil zone. In the Brown, and Dark Brown soil zones 40 to 45 per cent of the precipitation between October 1 and April 30 will be stored if a single cultivation occurs. In the Black and Grey Wooded soils this efficiency will drop to 25 to 30 per cent. In general, an increase of 10 per cent in the first winter storage would be equal to about one-half of that achieved by the additional 12-month fallow year. This suggests that increasing first winter storage in many areas may permit annual cropping instead of the fallow crop rotation.

Stubble can be managed to increase moisture storage efficiency. The simplest step is to reduce or omit cultivation. Removal of the single fall cultivation will increase water storage by two to three per cent. Leaving 12 to 13 inch stubble to catch snow, versus the six to seven inch stubble commonly found, will increase storage by about five to seven

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per cent. These changes may require change in seeding equipment, weed control and fertilizing. Total destruction of the stubble will decrease precipitation storage by 10 to 13 per cent.

"More complex stubble management methods can increase one winter's storage to as high as 60 to 65 per cent of received precipitation in the Brown and Dark Brown soil zones and to a lesser extent elsewhere," says Heywood. Such methods as a deflector swathing to leave several rows of tall stubble in each swath, alternating tall and short stubble, and leaving several rows of standing crop, will all retain or catch extra snow by altering wind flow across the field. Snow is accumulated both up wind and down wind of the barriers.

"Permanent or temporary barriers may also be established for the same purpose," says Heywood. Grass barriers placed at 50 to 60 foot intervals (spacing depends on equipment width) have worked well in the U.S. Temporary barriers of annual crops such as mustard or flax can be seeded in July across fallow to improve storage in the fallow winter.

Heywood says that all methods of conserving stubble and providing barriers also reduce erosion from wind and water and evaporation from the soil surface. "These effects are especially significant in the chinook zone of southern Alberta which often lacks snow cover."

Soils vary in their ability to accept water. Building up organic matter and a good tilth will have a positive effect on nongrowing precipitation storage. Cultivation that loosens the surface should, in theory, improve water retention, but apparently is more than offset by water loss related to the loss of stubble. Soils that crack retain more nongrowing season moisture because cracking assists with water intake. Deep tillage work on soils in Saskatchewan resulted in improvement in water uptake, however, because they are expensive the economics of using them for improving water intake are unproven.

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Contact: Dick Heywood
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181-5154 (RITE)

August 31, 1987
For immediate release

Seeding winter wheat into stubble

Winter wheat is a good crop choice in southern Alberta, according to Dick Heywood a water management specialist with Alberta Agriculture. "In general it out-yields spring wheat by five to 10 bushels per acre because its early growth characteristics make better use of April, May and June precipitation than does spring seeded grain," he says.

However, he says, a major limitation to expansion of winter wheat production is its lack of winter hardiness under Alberta conditions. The winter wheat "crown", the source of growth, is located about an inch below the soil's surface. The crowns of cold hard varieties will withstand temperatures down to about -20°C. Temperatures below this at the crown will rapidly reduce seedling survival, plant stand and yield.

Winter wheat survival often depends on snow cover which insulates the soil's surface from severe cold. Three inches of snow will protect winter wheat from damage of -40°C temperatures.

Snow cover in the present winter wheat production area is generally not continuous because of chinooks. Generally cold weather is preceded by snow which has normally proved sufficient for protection.

The general practice of seeding winter wheat on summerfallow will often limit the snow accumulated for protection because of wind drifting. Seeding winter wheat into stubble either by zero till or limited tillage methods would increase the snow retention and slow its melt, thus increasing the crop's protection. This may be important as the production expands outside of the current area.

"There is a definite difference in the level and duration of cold conditions expected," says Heywood. "For example, Foremost has a January average minimum temperature of -17°C and an extreme of -42°C. At Lethbridge and Bow Island, the mean minimum and extreme January temperatures are -16.6°C and -42°C. Medicine Hat and Brooks have January mean minimum

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and extremes of-18°C to -19°C and - 45°C respectively." He says that this suggests expansion of the winter wheat growing area eastward and northward will depend on maintaining adequate snow cover.

Standing stubble protection, like that achieved by minimum and zero till methods, provides an additional benefit of wind erosion protection. Over the past few years any winter wheat fields on summerfallow have experienced severe wind erosion problems which stubble seeding would either eliminate or reduce.

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Contact: Dick Heywood
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August 31, 1987
For immediate release

Farm management information sources

The publication, "Sources of Printed Farm Management Information from Alberta Agriculture" (Agdex 832), has been updated and is now available by writing to Craig Edwards, Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0.

This publication provides a listing of printed material from Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch, production and resource economics branch, market analysis branch and farm business management branch. Also included is information on the print media branch and its "Publications List" (Agdex 001), the main listing for most publications from the department.

Most of the publications are free to farmers but a few are being charged for and subscription rates are shown where applicable. Mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the branches are also provided.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
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August 31, 1987
For immediate release

New provincial apiculturist appointed

Paul van Westendorp has been appointed as the new provincial apiculturist with Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch. He will be responsible for providing assistance and guidance for the further development of the apiculture industry in Alberta.

"Together with Mr. Doug Coulter, who is responsible for the apiculture industry in the Peace River region, van Westendorp will provide solid support for this industry across Alberta," said Keith Price, crop protection branch head, in making the announcemnt.

Mr. van Westendorp started keeping bees at the age of 14. He worked as an assistant apiculturist for the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries while attending the University of British Columbia. He graduated from the university's agricultural sciences program specializing in crop protection and apiculture.

He worked as a research technician on the Farming for the Future Alberta honeybee project for three years, first at Brooks then at Beaverlodge. He has spent the last two years working as project manager of the apiculture rehabilitiation project in Uganda under the auspices of CARE Inc.

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Contact: Paul van Westendorp
427-0341

August 31, 1987
For immediate release

Beef cattle veterinarian appointed

Dr. M.W. Stone, head of epidemiology with Alberta Agriculture's animal health division, has announced the appointment of Dr. Casey Schipper to the newly created position of beef cattle veterinarian. This position is located in Edmonton.

In his new position, Dr. Schipper will be responsible for directing and conducting extension programs for beef producers and will conduct in-depth investigations into disease problems in both cow-calf and feedlot operations. He will be primarily responsible for the preconditioning program and will also participate in the initiation, design, conduct and analysis of research trials to evaluate current or new biological products and disease control strategies.

Dr. Schipper was born and raised in the Netherlands and immigrated to Canada in 1956. He attended high school in Lethbridge and graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine with a D.V.M. degree in 1970. He then spent two years as a volunteer with CUSO in southeast Asia followed by five years in a mixed veterinary practice in Taber. In 1977, Dr. Schipper joined Alberta Agriculture as a sheep and goat veterinarian and in 1980, was appointed swine veterinarian. In the fall of 1984, Dr. Schipper took a year of educational leave and during this time completed the requirements for a master of science degree at the University of Guelph. His course work was primarily related to the epidemiology of animal disease.

Dr. Schipper will continue to maintain some responsibility for the swine herd health program until his former position is filled.

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Contact:	Dr. Stone	Dr. Schipper
	436-9343	436-9343

August 31, 1987
For immediate release

Agri-News Briefs

LAMBS IN LACOMBE SEPTEMBER 19

The only event of its kind in Alberta, Lambs in Lacombe, on September 19, is an opportunity for sheepmen from across the province to buy top quality breeding stock. The sheep and wool exposition held at the Agriculture Canada research farm grounds in Lacombe is geared to all interests from sheep producers to the general public.

The day's events which get underway at 10 a.m., centre around a sale of performance tested commercial ewe lambs from across the province. There will also be a live breed display, showcasing rams and ewes from 10 different sheep breeds raised in Alberta. There will be sheep dog trials, a junior sheep show, a photo competition, an Angora goat display, a shearing demonstration, a sheep to shawl competition, a trade show and a lamb barbecue. An extensive craft show and sale will offer an opportunity to find some unique Christmas gifts. Admission is $1. For more information contact Cathy Gallivan 427-5077.

MORE MENU INFORMATION PLEASE

The March 1987 issue of "Foodservice and Hospitality" featured an interesting review of results from a Canadian gallup poll. A national sample of 1,048 adults were asked what additional information they would like to see on a menu -- first and second choice. Of all the types of information listed, the method of food processing, i.e., whether items are fresh, frozen or canned, elicited the strongest interest. Of the remaining types of menu information, a listing of ingredients and a description of nutritional value were most popular. One in five customers made a first or second choice of menus denoting additives, method of preparation, or portion size, while one in six mentioned an interest in calorie content. Women were more than twice as likely to desire information on calorie content while more men would be interested in portion size and method of preparation.

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ANTS

Mild overwintering conditions have resulted in a multitude of sizes and colors of ants this summer. While the majority of damage has involved creating lumps and bare spots in lawns or disrupting picnics, many homeowners have been concerned about the possibility of ants invading their homes. Ants can be difficult to control once they become established in a home. The majority of ants seen in a home are foragers, that is, ants which seek out food and return with it to the nest to feed the queen and developing larvae. In order to kill out an ant colony the queen herself must be killed. Spraying the foraging ants with nonresidual, contact insecticidal aerosols, or treating baseboards with residual insecticidal sprays or dusts, will not affect the queen or other worker ants in an established nest. Ants foraging in a kitchen area will seek out either sweet or greasy foods. With "sweet" ants, excellent control can be obtained with commercially produced syrup-based ant poison containing boric acid (Borax). Grease feeding ants can be attracted to feeding on these baits by mixing a few drops of the poison into a small amount of raw pie dough. Place a small drop of poisoned dough on a piece of wax paper in the area the grease ants are foraging. Carpenter ants, potentially a very serious pest of wood structures, pose special control measures and may require the services of a pest control operator.

COLD INJURY TO 1987 APPLE CROP

While the fruit of many apple and crabapple trees was affected by southern Alberta's unseasonably late frost in May, and may have dropped as the result of direct frost injury, other results of early season chilling are now only becoming obvious as the harvest season begins. "Greater than usual June drop of apples, combined with cold damage to petioles and conductive tissue, further thinned an already reduced

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crop, says Cathy Linowski with the ASCHRC at Brooks. Remaining fruit has symptoms of scarring and growth cracking, russeting, patchy skin color and various patterns of flesh browning and/ or water core. Linowski says the majority of these problems, with the exception of pit and water core, will not affect the useability of fruit apart from visual limitations. Keeping quality, especially by apples affected by internal browning, will be reduced and fruit should be processed as soon as feasible.

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